Daily Report

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Chernomyrdin Outlines Trends of CIS Economic Activity

LD0912132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Shtorkh, Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin addressed a CIS summit today, outlining priority directions in the economic development of CIS countries. He said that the realisation of an agreement on the creation of a zone of free trade in the CIS and the implementation of joint investment programmes should be given priority in the CIS activities.

In order to step up the implementation of an agreement on the creation of a free trade zone, it is important that heads of government show a good will and understanding of the need to create corresponding prerequisites in the spheres of industry, agriculture and transport, Chernomyrdin said. "If our trade contacts are oriented to the West, the problems faced by the CIS will have to be resolved depending on the principle of a remaining potential," the prime minister noted.

Chernomyrdin believes that the most important task today and next year will be to render a concrete meaning to agreements signed earlier. This primarily concerns agreements on joint activities in the sphere of investments, coordinated anti-monopoly policy, general conditions and a mechanism of support to industrial cooperation. Chernomyrdin pointed out the importance of creating trans-national industries, credit, financial and insurance structures, which will be effective on the CIS market.

Chenomyrdin drew the attention of CIS leaders to the importance of more concrete and purpose-oriented development of interstate programmes of joint investments. He pointed out that "mere restoration of contacts at an former level is hardly expected to open the way for prosperity for any of us." The world experience shows that technological progress is one of the key impetuses in integration processes. A way out can be found in the creation of a single technological space similar to a pattern of the European community," the prime minister said.

The first steps in this direction might be the preparation of an agreement on coordinated scientific-technical policy conducted by member-states of the economic union, and the development of a comprehensive interstate programme of technological priorities which will lay the basis for the solution of concrete scientific and technical problems, the prime minister said, adding that Russia is prepared to work out and submit its proposals on this problem.

Addresses CIS Prime Ministers

LD0912175994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 9 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1994 has seen the formation of a legal basis for CIS to function, Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin declared in his opening speech at a session of the Council of Prime Ministers from the Commonwealth states on Friday [9 December].

He attached special significance to the agreement on assistance to industrial, commercial, credit-financial, trading, and mixed transnational companies, signed in early 1994. "In combination with the creation of an Interstate Economic Committee, this makes it possible to form an effective mechanism of putting our understandings into practice," Chernomyrdin said.

Speaking about tasks for 1995, he noted that the implementation of the agreement on setting up a free trade zone gets prime significance, and so does "the implementation of the already concluded accords and filling them with substance, above all the agreements on joint investment activity, a coordinated anti-monopoly policy, common efforts and a mechanism of support for industrial cooperation and assistance to the creation of transnational industrial, credit-financial, and insurance structures."

"The mere restoration of ties at the old technological basis will hardly open the way to prosperity to anyone of us," Chernomyrdin emphasized. For this reason, there is nothing more important in the forthcoming year than to form a single technological environment similar to that in the European Union.

He cited some statistics on CIS economic development this year. CIS gross domestic product has dwindled by 16 percent, industrial production by 23 percent, and agricultural output by almost 10 percent.

Export, according to Chernomyrdin, has risen by 8 percent while import has been up 6 percent.

He voiced particularly concern over the declined commodities exchange within the Commonwealth. In 1994, the volume of trade between CIS countries, according to him, will be a bit more than one third of the 1990 volume.

He also felt ill at ease over the CIS countries failure to meet mutual industrial supply. Russia, Chernomyrdin said, still remains the donor in these deliveries. In 1995, Russia will be compelled to make advance payment part of commercial deals and contracts for the shipment of goods. "As a compulsory condition, Russia offers to introduce financial liability for payment delays," he noted.

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Of the Commonwealth countries total debt of 7.5 trillion rubles this year, almost 6.6 trillion rubles are for gas. Gazprom of Russia, Chernomyrdin said, "will simply have to raise the issue on slashing gas supplies" to insolvent partners.

Touching upon credit and monetary relations, Chernomyrdin reported that although Russia has give $5.6 billion dollars in credits to CIS countries since the Commonwealth's inception, instead of settling the insolvency issue, such generosity has only aggravated it.

Chernomyrdin: CIS GDP Expected to Fall by 16%

LD0912133094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This year the gross domestic product of the Commonwealth of Independent States will drop by 16 percent, the volume of industrial production—by 23 percent, farming production—by almost 10 percent, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told the Commonwealth Council of Heads of Government Friday [9 December].

Chernomyrdin predicted 8 percent foreign export growth and 6 percent foreign import growth for this year.

He is concerned over the plummeting trade turnover between the Commonwealth republics. Chernomyrdin put this year's trade turnover at, roughly, one third of 1990 turnover.

Also worrying him is the CIS republics' failure to meet set trade agreements. According to Chernomyrdin, Russia keeps playing the giver's role in inter-Commonwealth trade and will be forced to demand advance payments for the delivery of goods under trade and economic agreements in 1995. It will insist on financial responsibility for delayed payments, he said.

As of October 1, 1994 the other Commonwealth republics owed Russia a total of 7.5 trillion rubles, including almost 6.6 trillion for the delivery of Russian natural gas. The Russian corporation Gazprom, according to Chernomyrdin, "will simply have to consider the reduction of gas deliveries" to its non-paying partners.

Addressing the situation in the credit and monetary field, Chernomyrdin said that the extension of the equivalent of $5.6 billion to other Commonwealth republics aggravated, instead of resolving, the problem of delayed payments.

Summit Approves Documents on Creation of Economic Union

LD0912151394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Andrey shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—A session of the council of CIS heads of state and government has ended in the President Hotel in Moscow today. Participants approved around 20 documents predominantly connected with the realization of an agreement on the creation of an economic union.

Ivan Korotchenya, executive secretary of the CIS council, said at a news conference held upon completion of the summit that the future of CIS integration depends on the Interstate Economic Committee. "Today, another big stride has been taken in this direction. The structure, an estimate, heads of the collegium of the economic council and the number of its members have been coordinated," Korotchenya said.

Russian Vice-Premier Aleksey Bolshakov pointed out that one of the major problems faced by the CIS is the creation of an efficient system of interstate payments. "We have no right to delay the creation of the economic union in the CIS framework," Bolshakov said, "although we were given a good example by economic integration in Western Europe, we cannot afford to procrastinate this process the way our Western European partners did," Bolshakov said.

It was pointed out at the news conference that the CIS council of heads of government approved two big documents which will ensure and step up the formation of a single customs space on the territory of the CIS. "After adopting an agreement on the creation of a payment union, priority was given to the creation of a single customs space," Korotchenya said. In his opinion, the settlement of the problem of the single customs space will complete one of the most important stages in the construction of a carcass of the economic union.

A package of agreements on social problems contains an agreement on cooperation in the field of labour protection, the creation of an interstate foundation for aid to refugees and forcibly resettled people and on investigation into accidents at enterprises.

A document has been coordinated, which establishes a kind of "rapid deployment force" corps to be used in case of accidents and emergencies happening on the CIS territory. The corps will include national special rescue teams, which in case of emergency will be dispatched to the area of the accident and act jointly with interstate forces operating under single command.

Russian Minister on Economic Union Aim

MM0912121194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Dec 94 p 3

[Interview with Marat Khusnutdinov, Russian Federation minister for questions of cooperation with CIS member states, by Aleksandr Zolotarev; place and date not given: "There Was a Soviet Union, Now There Will Be an Economic One"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Zolotarev] Marat Khayrutdinovich, what does the CIS integration program adopted in October represent?

[Khusnutdinov] It consists of not one but several documents. They are the memorandum "The Main Directions of the Development of Integration in the Commonwealth of Independent States" and the Long-Term Plan for Development of CIS Integration. They were adopted as "one package," as they complement one another. The memorandum contains basic agreements on the aims of integration and ways of moving toward it. The Long-Term Plan sets out for perhaps the first time concrete measures, indicating specific time limits and the people responsible for their implementation.

The plan did not arise out of nothing. It is built on the fairly solid legal contractual basis created earlier. You only have to recall the treaty on an Economic Union, the agreements on the formation of a free trade zone as the first stage of a customs union, the documents on a payments union, cooperation in the field of investments activities, and efforts to facilitate the development of coproduction, and so on. Several of those adopted earlier are now no longer in force. For example, the introduction of national currencies in the CIS states "repealed" the agreements on forming a single ruble zone.

I would like to express my satisfaction that, for the first time in the CIS republics' as yet short life, favorable conditions have appeared not only for normalizing but for expanding multilateral ties among them. So we have every reason for talking about the beginning of a new phase in the development of the CIS states' integration.

[Zolotarev] How long will it take to implement the program?

[Khusnutdinov] It is likely to be difficult to give a concrete schedule. You see, we have formulated a plan to organize effective economic cooperation and the gradual formation of an Economic Union, as well as cooperation in the humanitarian and social spheres and in the sphere of human rights. Add to that the formation of a security system and the implementation of the idea collective peacekeeping for the Commonwealth states, as well as joint measures to guarantee the security of their external borders.

As you see, there are various tasks which will be carried out as we become ready to do so. By the end of this year a draft agreement should have been produced on a customs union and in the first half of 1995—a draft blueprint and plan of action to form a common market for goods, services, capital, and manpower. Draft agreements for the formation of a currency union will be ready by mid-1998.

[Zolotarev] Are any steps being taken to that end, or is everything as yet limited to discussions?

[Khusnutdinov] Practical work is, of course, being carried out for the purpose of implementing the agreements signed. Here are some examples. You know that there is an agreement on the formation of a payments union. The Ministry for Cooperation with the CIS States and the Bank of Russia are holding talks on concluding the necessary bilateral agreements on direct action with those states interested in bringing the union into being. Models for these agreements have been produced.

A start has been made on forming the future common market's production infrastructure: Work is being carried out on the formation and development of transnational associations. At the end of March 1994 Russia and Kazakhstan came to an agreement on the principles for creating Russian-Kazakh financial-industrial groups. Similar agreements with Ukraine and Belarus are being prepared. The formation of such groups is being organized on the basis of intergovernmental agreements.

In particular, schemes are being examined to form a financial-industrial group from the "Gazprom" Russian joint-stock company and the "Kazakhgaz" holding company, to set up the "Mezhdunarodnyye Aviamotory" financial-industrial group with Ukraine, and to organize a Russian-Kirghiz [Kyrgyz] financial-industrial group to be called "Roskyrgyzinvest." From May of this year a Coordinating Council for Problems of Transnational Structures has been operating on a permanent footing at the Ministry for Cooperation with the CIS States. What also should be pointed out are the joint projects in the areas of investment, scientific and technical cooperation, and the deepening of cooperative and direct ties between enterprises.

[Zolotarev] But who is monitoring all these extensive and multifaceted activities?

[Khusnutdinov] There is no single coordinating body. All the Commonwealth's statutory bodies are working in this area. As far as the future is concerned, executors for each of the measures planned have been identified. They include the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Defense Ministers, the Collective Security Council, the permanent consultative commission for peacekeeping activities, the councils of the leaders of foreign economic departments and the customs services, the interstate and national banks, the Interstate Industrial Council, the Interstate Scientific and Technical Council, and others.

[Zolotarev] But how, nevertheless, can the implementation of decisions be monitored?

[Khusnutdinov] As I have already said, the integration plan envisages specific measures to monitor the progress of the agreements' implementation. But both the Council of Heads of Government and other CIS bodies will deal with this in their sessions.

Clearly, sanctions can be applied to those who do not carry out the decisions adopted. It is, however, necessary to recognize that work on this question has not yet been completed in the Commonwealth. The Memorandum notes that a mechanism for cooperation which ensures the implementation of the multilateral agreements is essential, that Commonwealth bodies can make executive decisions including mandatory ones, and that an effective monitoring system is necessary.

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[Zolotarev] What role does the Interstate Economic Committee [IEC] have in the adopted program of integration?

[Khusnutdinov] The Economic Union has a permanent coordinating and executive body in the shape of the IEC, which performs monitorial and administrative functions. Now the whole range of questions pertaining to the socioeconomic sphere of cooperation are passing into its jurisdiction. The IEC will also examine questions prepared by the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Defense Ministers, and other Commonwealth bodies, if their resolution entails significant expenditure.

The Committee has been given wide-ranging rights. On a basis of consensus it can adopt decisions on matters of principle concerning the Economic Union's development and on specific economic questions, taking the states' economic potential into consideration. The IEC prepares the most important questions for scrutiny at sessions of the Commonwealth's Council of Heads of Government and Council of Heads of State.

All IEC integration measures directed at forming a common market will one way or another serve to maintain and deepen cooperation between technologically interconnected works. It is expected to play a particularly large role in ensuring the normal functioning of energy systems, transport, communications, gas and oil pipelines, and other facilities and spheres of a transnational nature.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Dec

LD1012071194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0632 GMT 10 Dec 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 10 TASS — Newspapers highlight today the first anniversary of the adoption of the present constitution of the Russian Federation, which falls due on December 12. "The main ideas, recorded in the Constitution, can turn Russia into a strong, free and flourishing country, if they are put into effect," President Yeltsin said in an interview, published by IZVESTIYA. According to Yeltsin, these are, in the first place, the ideas of a social and law-governed state. He specified that "a law- governed and social state is a state of peace and partnership between classes, based on the balance of interests of all sections of society." "The adoption of the Constitution in 1993 healed the most painful spot in Russian modern history. Our society, all of us got rid of the abnormal and, which is most important, dangerous confrontation of various branches of state power," Yeltsin said.

In connection with the first anniversary of the adoption of the Russian Constitution, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries and interview with Mikhail Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma. According to Mityukov, the Constitution gave the country "a new constitutional system, based on a clear division of authority, ... A legal foundation for a new economic and political system." On the same occasion, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI published the results of a public opinion poll, conducted among Muscovites. "All our rights, recorded in the Constitution, are nothing but a declaration," "the right to individual security, recorded in the Constitution, remained on paper. It is now dangerous to walk by the streets of Moscow not only at night, but also at the daytime," some of the polled said.

The press continues to give wide coverage to the situation in Chechnya. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA describes it as "tense waiting." The newspaper points out that "preparations for defence are under way in the cities and villages of Chechnya." "The circle of blockade is tightening around Chechnya, which is evoking ever stronger protests in Russia," IZVESTIYA writes. "The Russian president is facing the most important choice in his life: on the one hand, a war or a state of emergency, which may develop into a wat at any moment. On the other hand, the way of difficult negotiations, which will hardly bring quick and impressive accomplishments."

At the same time, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes that, despite the search for peaceful ways of the settlement of the crisis, armed groups from abroad continue to come to Chechnya. According to NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA, grenade launchers and other weapons, used against tanks with Russian crews, which attacked Groznyy on November 26, were brought to Groznyy for the Dudayev regime "by three Russian planes" on November 22. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes with reference to the Armenian mass media that a special task battalion of the Azeri Army was transferred from the Agdam area to Baku "to be sent later to Chechnya to help the Dudayev government."

Newspapers continue to publish materials about the 1995 draft budget. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA sets forth the address of chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko to members of parliament, in which he urged to envisage enough resources in the 1995 state budget for maintaining the battle preparedness of the Russian Armed Forces on a proper level. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, as a result of the work of the conciliatory commission in the State Duma, the government "softened" its draft budget.

The essence of Russia's foreign policy "may be described by four categories: fuss, improvisation, incompetence and, as a result of it, plunging from side to side," Member of the Presidential Council Andranik Migranyan writes in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. In his opinion, those characteristic features of the Russian foreign policy resulted, among other things, in a "total defeat" of the Russian diplomacy with regard to NATO. "Three years after Russia became independent, it is in many respects more alone and more vulnerable in the international arena, than the Soviet Union," he believes.

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Government Orders Closure of Chechnya's Borders, Air Space

LD1012105294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The government of Russia today adopted a decision which, in particular, instructs the Ministry of Internal Affairs to close off the administrative borders of Chechnya and also instructs the Ministry of Defense to close off that republic's air space. This was announced today by the temporary information center of the Government of the Russian Federation.

The announcement says that the Government's decision was taken in accordance with the decree issued by the president of the Russian Federation on 9 December "On measures to halt the activity of illegal armed formations on the territory of the Chechen Republic and in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict." The temporary information center has stated that the decision envisages "ensuring the state security and territorial integrity of Russia, legality, the rights and freedoms of citizens, the disarming of illegal armed formations on the territory of Chechnya and adjacent regions of the North Caucasus."

The implementation of these tasks has been entrusted to a number of ministries and departments, primarily the Russian Ministry of Internal affairs, says the communique from the temporary information center.

Japan Will Not Comment

LD1212070694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0701 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo December 12 TASS—The Japanese foreign office refused to comment on the events in Chechnya in connection with the dispatch of Russian troops there. "We cannot say anything on this issue, since this is an affair of a foreign state," said a responsible foreign office official by telephone.

According to the official, the ministry "did not and is not preparing any official statement in connection with the situation in Chechnya".

Russia, Ukraine Agree on Soviet Assets, Liabilities

LD0912173794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1638 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Dec—Russia and Ukraine today concluded an agreement on the division of the former USSR's assets and liabilities. The document was signed at the Russian Government building by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vitaliy Masol, his Ukrainian counterpart. The two sides agree in the document on the "zero option," which has been under discussion for a long time. Russia will hold on to all the assets of the former USSR. In return, it will pay the interest charges on the Ukrainian share of the former Soviet Union's debts to foreign creditors.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol told correspondents after the signing that Ukraine no longer owes or is owed any interest on the former Soviet debts. Ukraine is obliged to accept this arrangement because the republic cannot afford to pay interest charges on these debts, which would have cost it around $800 million annually.

Russia's Vice Premier Aleksey Bolshakov, who attended the Russo-Ukrainian talks, disclosed that two more agreements will be signed shortly. One covers the restructuring of Ukraine's $2.7 billion debt to Russia for the supply of commodities. The other is an agreement on the division of the former USSR's real estate overseas.

Technical holdups are the only reason why these agreements have not been signed today, the Ukrainian prime minister noted, and there is no doubt that they will be signed within the next few days. The agreement on restructuring Ukrainian debts to Russia does not cover the Ukrainian debt for supplies of Russian gas.

Gore-Chernomyrdin Meeting to Focus on Siberian Oil Project

LD0912202394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1806 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Irina Bolshova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—A regular meeting of the Russian-U.S. "Gore-Chernomyrdin" commission will be held in Moscow next week to focus on a joint oil project in the Ob region, Siberia, presidents of the Russian Yukos Company and the U.S. Amoco company said here today. These companies have won an international tender for development of the northern part of the Priobskoye oil deposit in the Khanty-Mansiisk autonomous district.

In the opinion of the Russian and U.S. sides, the project will give way to more oil-extracting projects in Russia with foreign capital despite some political difficulties. The project will not start till 1996 because of the Russian poor legislation on oil extraction and division of output, the undeveloped scheme of financing and state support, and delays in creation of a special expert commission for the Ob project, said Yukos President Sergey Muravlenko.

The overall cost of the Priobskoye oil deposit development is estimated at 35 billion U.S. dollars. The deposit has an oil stock of 700 million tones. No less than one billion dollars will be necessary to start the project. The financing will be done by Yukos and Amoco, as well as with credits of international fiscal institutions. The World Bank is studying a possibility to issue a 500 million dollar credit to the project participants.

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The Russian side is expected to gain no less than 28 billion dollars from the project and create the infrastructure in the deposit zone.

The Yukos and Amoco presidents discussed the expansion of bilateral cooperation today. They plan to cooperate in oil extraction, oil processing and petrochemistry. In the words of Muravlenko, it is not excluded that Yukos gasoline stations will soon appear in the United States.

U.S. Investment Policy, Russian Pension Policy Discussed

LD1112124394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington December 11 TASS—A conference on the subject "U.S. investment policy and the establishment of a non-governmental pension provision system in Russia" ended here on Saturday. It was held on the initiative of one of America's largest trade union associations, the International Union of Industrial, Service, Transport and Health Employees—and the State Duma, the lower house of the Federal Assembly (parliament) of Russia.

"The first problem which we thoroughly considered at the forum was to create necessary legal and political conditions to stimulate foreign investments in the Russian economy," Valentin Kovalyov, the leader of the Russian delegation and deputy speaker of the State Duma, told ITAR-TASS.

"French, German, Japanese, and Turkish businessmen now operate on our market much more actively than American investors. This is accounted for by a number of factors, both intra-American and intra-Russian ones.

"We are aware that our country still lacks all the necessary prerequisites for foreign capital investments. The Duma endeavours to do as much as it can in this respect. As is known, we have already adopted the general part of a civil code which, in the estimate of foreign experts, is the world's best one because it is the latest one in the history of law and incorporates the newest achievements of international legal thought.

"The adoption of the code lays foundations for a civilised functioning of an investment market in Russia. Next stage is to develop such branches of law as banking, insurance business, and bankruptcy procedures.

"Those present at the conference also discussed in detail the problem of establishing non-governmental pension funds. They are expected to accumulate huge sums of money donated by the population, state-provided resources and investments from abroad.

"Such a blend will make it possible, on the one hand, to direct substantial monetary reserves to the development of the national economy and, on the other, to provide reliable guarantees for foreign capital investments in federal programmes.

"Speakers at the forum dwelt on the need to enlist the efforts of American pension and investment foundations for operation in Russia. Several very large U.S. insurance companies, which manifest interest in this idea, have joined in the negotiations on the matter. Speakers also mentioned such a promising area as the establishment of jointly-run insurance firms. American partners believe that without them large-scale accumulation of investment resources in Russia would be impossible," Kovalyov said.

Russia 'Alarmed' by Reports of Croat Army in Bosnia

LD0912203394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations December 9 TASS—Russia is alarmed with reports on participation of the Croat army in combat operations in Bosnia, Russian permanent representative in the United Nations Sergey Lavrov told correspondents today upon the completion of consultations of the U.N. Security Council.

In his words, the Russian delegation has requested the U.N. Secretariat for additional information.

Escalation of Bosnia Conflict Seen if U.S. Intervenes

MK1012095094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Gornostayev under the "Crisis" rubric: "Clinton Proposes That U.S. Troops Be Brought to Bosnia. With a Red Rag in Hand, Washington Is Going To Save a Child From a Bull"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council has not yet made a decision on withdrawing the "blue helmets" from Bosnia—which would mean at least the clinical death of the peacekeeping mission—but the United States is already preparing a funeral motorcade: President Bill Clinton has proposed that from 3,000 to 25,000 U.S. servicemen be sent to Bosnia for the purpose of covering the withdrawal of UN contingents, if need be.

Dee Dee Myers, White House press secretary, said that it was NATO that turned to the U.S. side with such a request. An organization in which, as is well known, the Americans call the shots. It turns out that in order to win the laurels of peacekeepers' savior, one just needs to ask oneself for help.

So far, however, the Americans hope that neither their intervention nor the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces would be needed, and the crisis in Bosnia could be resolved peacefully at the negotiating table. At least this

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was the idea of a statement by Leon Panetta, chief of the Office of Management and Budget [title as published]. At first glance, this is a statement that merits approval. It is clear, however, that a peaceful settlement is unlikely to be achieved any time soon. Therefore, if we follow the logic of Panetta's statement, the bringing in of U.S. troops as part of NATO contingents—that will be far from peacekeeping—will be inevitable. The American military machine, which has sensed the approach of a Republican administration, a party that has traditionally lobbied for the interests of the military-industrial complex, needs yet another attempt at demonstrating its military might.

Robert Dole, leader of the Republicans in the Senate, insists that U.S. troops "should not be executors of UN decisions, given its manner of conducting operations, engagement rules, and its ability to defend itself." Outside UN operations—one of which will be the evacuation of the "blue helmets"—the Americans are set to act much tougher than the peacekeepers did. There are ample grounds for such suggestions: the priority of offensive operations in the U.S. Army's tactics, methods employed by U.S. troops in Somalia, where they carried out a similar mission, effectively supplanting UN contingents.

A repetition of the Somali option in case of U.S. intervention in Bosnia, should it take place, will be a likely possibility. The Bosnian Serbs' hatred for the Americans could be even greater than that of the Somalis because of their support for the Muslims and NATO air strikes. The Americans would not wish to be found wanting and would not only respond to fire with fire, but would definitely take "preventive measures." Then an escalation of hostilities and a large-scale involvement of a third party in the conflict would be inevitable. The United States is going to save a child from a bull by waving a red rag, the stars and stripes serving for this purpose.

Russian Ambassador Interviewed on Peacekeeping Mission

NC1212090394 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 5 Dec 94 p 18

["Text" of an interview with Russian Ambassador to Turkey Vadim Kuznetsov by an unidentified HURRIYET correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [HURRIYET] Russia has opposed the deployment of an international peacekeeping force in Karabakh. Is that because of your fear that the Turkish military forces may also be deployed in the region?

[Kuznetsov] A cease-fire agreement was put into effect in Karabakh through Russia's mediation in May. That agreement has been maintained for six months now. We have insisted on the need to end the bloodshed since the clashes began in that region. We have insisted on the withdrawal of troops from the occupied territory and on the lifting of the economic embargo.

[HURRIYET] Do you mean to say that Russia has secured the cease-fire agreement and that it must be Russia, not an international force, that will establish security in that region?

[Kuznetsov] No, it can be either way. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met the representatives of the two sides when he visited the region to hold talks on the implementation of a cease-fire agreement. But he asked Russia right at the start of the conflict to mediate between the two sides to help them establish peace.

[HURRIYET] Do you believe Russia is a more influential country than Turkey in the region?

[Kuznetsov] I will not comment on whether it is more influential or not. But I will say that Russia is more experienced in mediating between Armenia and Azerbaijan. For example, the Armenians cannot accuse Russia of partiality. The clashing sides must support Turkey's mediation if Turkey wants to act as a mediator. Naturally, we are in touch with Turkey on the issue within the CSCE Minsk Group's framework. For example, Andrey Kozyrev visited Ankara some time ago. The Turkish ambassador in Moscow is in touch with us. The nine members of the Minsk Group met in Moscow last month. They decided to have the issue discussed by the CSCE summit in Budapest. Naturally, we will not object to a decision by the summit on the establishment of an international peacekeeping force for the Caucasus region.

[HURRIYET] Do you mean to say that you will not oppose a proposal in Budapest to establish an international peacekeeping force?

[Kuznetsov] The CSCE has neither the mechanism nor the funds required to establish an international peacekeeping force. How will it be established? What country will agree to finance it? Only the UN Security Council has the authority to approve the deployment of troops in a region without the consent of the clashing sides. We must first establish a mechanism in the CSCE for establishing a peacekeeping force that can resort to the use of force if necessary. We must solve the financial problems we will encounter when we try to organize that force. The countries that will establish it must be approved by the clashing sides. This is required by the norms of international law.

[HURRIYET] Will you put forward conditions if Turkey insists on the deployment of an international peacekeeping force in that region?

[Kuznetsov] The issue must be subject to the consent of the clashing sides. The norms of international law must not be violated and the task of the international force that will be deployed in the region must be specified. The duration of its deployment must also be specified. The tasks of all the international peacekeeping forces must be

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clearly defined. Meanwhile, they must be supported by the national forces, as in the case of the operations of the UN peacekeeping forces in [former] Yugoslavia and Somalia—although it cannot be said that these forces are very successful. How different is Karabakh from those countries? Russia took measures against all the clashes in the territory of the former Soviet Union by itself. It shouldered the financial responsibility for that purpose and lost some of its men. That is why we do not wish to object to the establishment of an international peacekeeping force.

Peace Treaty on Kurils in Near Future 'Impossible'

LD0912155094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1510 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov believes that Russia and Japan will not succeed in signing a peace treaty or settling their territorial dispute in the near future.

"Both sides realize that this is unreal and impossible," Panov told Interfax on Friday [9 December] in an exclusive interview. He has just returned from Tokyo, where he held consultations with his Japanese counterpart Hiroshi Fukuda and attended a routine session of the Russian-Japanese working group on a peace treaty.

According to Panov, "the stands taken by the two sides on the issue of signing a peace treaty are clear enough." "In fact, we do not discuss this issue in particular," he said.

"Both sides realize increasingly well that under the circumstances they must simply develop their relationship and resolve the concrete problems that can be solved: fishing in the South Kurils area, visa-free exchanges between Kuril residents and the Japanese, humanitarian aid to the South Kurils in the wake of the recent earthquake, and the like," he said. "We reached a clear understanding with Japan on this score."

When asked if Russia links its consent to Japan's permanent membership in the UN Security Council with the need to sign a peace treaty, Panov said: "No, we believe that these are two issues unconnected with each other, though in principle one can link anything to everything. But we have never expressed our official stand in this shape anywhere."

When in Tokyo, he also discussed issued connected with preparations for a visit to Japan by the head of Russian diplomacy Andrey Kozyrev, Panov said. "We proceed from the assumption that his visit will take place early next year, but the exact time has not been fixed yet," he noted.

Commentary Assesses Situation on Korean Peninsula

SK1012022894 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Dec 94

[Commentary by Aleksey Kondratyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Board of Governors meeting is being held in Vienna. Station commentator Aleksey Kondratyev writes:

The IAEA Board of Governors is holding a broad range of discussions for effective supervision of nuclear materials. In particular, it is paying great attention to the result of the IAEA inspection team's activities in the DPRK.

The UN Security Council gave the IAEA limitless inspection rights to supervise freeze of the DPRK nuclear program. According to the international inspection team, Pyongyang has already frozen its nuclear program. The inspection team looked at graphite-moderated reactors in the DPRK. The graphite-moderated reactors were not in operation, and the construction of new graphite-moderated reactors had been suspended. The Radiochemical Laboratory in Yongbyon and nuclear facilities in Taechon were closed. In short, Pyongyang is observing the DPRK-U.S. agreement on nuclear safeguards (?at this moment).

All that the IAEA has to do now is supervise the storage of fuel rods and the conversion of graphite-moderated reactors into light- water ones.

The United States and the DPRK are guaranteeing political conditions for reform. In Washington, they are now holding talks on exchanging liaison offices. However, it is too early to say that the situation on the peninsula has normalized completely. Citing the instance of the nuclear issue would be enough to explain this.

Pyongyang recently requested that Seoul open up its nuclear program. The DPRK suspects that the ROK is developing its own nuclear warheads. South-North relations and the denuclearization of the peninsula, as well as other pending issues, will soon be resolved. Not only the nuclear issue, but the nonmilitarization [pigunsahwa] of the peninsula appear imminent. Continuous military confrontation only clouds the prospects for the military and political situation in the region.

What will be the destiny of the U.S. Forces in the ROK? Since Washington is trying to guarantee the ROK's security, who then, can guarantee the DPRK's security? It is natural for these questions to arise.

Moscow suggests that all these questions be solved together. That is, it has proposed an international conference for discussions on security and denuclearization of the peninsula. Moscow expects that the military confrontation of today will be removed by the international conference and durable peace will be established on the peninsula.

Panov Proposes Conference

LD0912190994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1516 GMT 9 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov believes that Russia and Japan will not succeed in signing a peace treaty or settling their territorial dispute in the near future.

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According to Panov, "the stands taken by the two sides on the issue of signing a peace treaty are clear enough." "In fact, we do not discuss this issue in particular," he said.

"Both sides realize increasingly well that under the circumstances they must simply develop their relationship and resolve the concrete problems that can be solved: fishing in the South Kurils area, visa-free exchanges between Kuril residents and the Japanese, humanitarian aid to the South Kurils in the wake of the recent earthquake, and the like," he said. "We reached a clear understanding with Japan on this score."

When asked if Russia links its consent to Japan's permanent membership in the UN Security Council with the need to sign a peace treaty, Panov said: "No, we believe that these are two issues unconnected with each other, though in principle one can link anything to everything. But we have never expressed our official stand in this shape anywhere."

During his latest visit to Japan he did not discuss "the most effective ways to reform the Security Council and the UN as a whole," Panov pointed out. "Though we have held a dialogue on these problems with Japan on different levels, of course," he conceded.

Panov dwelled on the problem connected with the violations of Russia's territorial waters in the South Kurils area by Japanese fishermen. "According to our information, honest fishermen do not go there. This involves people connected with Mafia structures," he said. "These violations show: no matter how strict the measures we take are, without an agreement there will always be desperate people who will try to get there, even despite the danger of being shot at, detained, and the like."

According to Panov, when Russia and Japan sign their agreement, the situation in the South Kurils area will stabilize. "The basic understanding to start negotiations on this problem was reached, when Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets was visiting Tokyo," he said. "This process will evidently begin in the near future. There is every reason to believe that we shall be able to bring these talks to their logical conclusion, that is to the signing of a corresponding agreement."

When in Tokyo, he also discussed issued connected with preparations for a visit to Japan by the head of Russian diplomacy Andrey Kozyrev, Panov said. "We proceed from the assumption that his visit will take place early next year, but the exact time has not been fixed yet," he noted.

The high-ranking diplomat made it clear that a number of documents will be signed during Kozyrev's visit. However he declined to elaborate, pleading an understanding with Japan.

During his consultations with Hiroshi Fukuda he discussed not only bilateral problems, but also international issues, the situation in Asia as a whole and on the Korean Peninsula in particular, Panov said. "We again spoke in favor of convening an international conference on problems connected with the Korean Peninsula. In our view, only one issue—nuclear—has been dealt with in the set of problems we proposed to discuss at the conference. The other problems, including a peace treaty between the North and the South, remain, and they should be discussed. So the idea of convening an international conference will inevitably get materialized," Panov said. "According to the Japanese, this idea deserves to be discussed, though it will be hard enough to carry it out."

Moscow To Supply Weapons to South Korea

LD0912133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1306 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Geronin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (TASS)—Russia will deliver weapons to the Republic of Korea. The press service of the Rosvooruzheniye state company told ITAR-TASS this today. In keeping with a protocol signed by Rosvooruzheniye and the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea on the delivery of Russian military equipment to South Korean ground troops, it will be implemented through the cancellation of the Russian Federation's debt to the Republic of Korea.

The protocol was signed during the trip to Seoul from 23 November to 2 December by a Rosvooruzheniye delegation headed by Stanislav Filip, deputy general director of the company, in keeping with a decision by the government of the Russian Federation and at the invitation of the Korean Defense Ministry. Experts believe that the document is the first step in establishing military and technical cooperation between Russia and South Korea.

It is planned to hold talks to clarify the conditions of the contracts on the delivery of military equipment and to sign them later.

Seven Servicemen Leave Mozdok, Sign Contracts With FCS

LD0912130794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By special ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia) 9 Dec—The seven Russian servicemen handed over by the Chechen authorities to the Russian Defense Ministry representatives on Thursday [8 December] evening left Mozdok for Moscow this afternoon.

All the servicemen told journalists in Mozdok that they had signed contracts with a representative of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS]. They also claim that they were each promised 3 million rubles to prepare military equipment, a further 3 million to get it into Groznyy, and a further 3 million on their return to Moscow, once the operation was completed.

The servicemen claim, however, that they never received any money. Of the seven servicemen who left by air for Moscow, five are officers, one is a warrant officer, and one a private. The Russian Government's provisional information center in Moscow made public their names: Major Valeriy Ivanov, Captain Andrey Kryukov, Senior Lieutenants Aleksey Rastopka, Yevgeniy Zhukov, and Kirill Nazarevich, Senior Warrant Officer Nikolay Potekhin, and Private Aleksey Chikin.

The servicemen said they were based in units near Moscow. According to their data, 26 Russian tank crews were involved in the Groznyy expedition.

It is claimed that overall 82 Russian servicemen took part in the operation. Nineteen of them were taken prisoner. Up until now 18 people have been returned, while the seriously wounded Private Valeriy Prishakov is, for the time being, hospitalized in Groznyy.

Kuwaiti Speaker Cited on Possible Iraqi Debt Repayment

MM0912134894 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Pavel Bogomolov: "We Can Kiss Our Money Good-bye. Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Answers PRAVDA Correspondent's Question"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—At a meeting with journalists in London, Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, once again listed the demands to Baghdad which ensue from UN Security Council Resolution 687.

This notably concerns the return of property removed during the recent "Gulf War" to its rightful owner, compensation by Iraq for the damage done to the neighboring country, the relocation of weapons of mass destruction (the Kuwaitis sometimes even include armored personnel carriers here) away from the borders; and humanitarian problems, including the fate of Kuwaiti citizens who are still in Iraq against their will. Only after specific steps are taken by Baghdad in all of these spheres can the international embargo imposed on it be lifted (according to Mr. al-Sa'dun).

"Consequently, Saddam Husayn's government will only be able to settle its multibillion international commitments, including with Russia, after all the sections of the aforementioned document have been implemented.... Is it realistic to count on this in the foreseeable future? Obviously, the answer to this is up to Baghdad, but what is your opinion on this subject?" I asked.

...After the press conference, my journalist colleagues agreed with me that the protracted financial time-out in relations between Iraq and other countries is really becoming intolerable. Particularly in the light of the constructive changes, which even Kuwait has recognized, in the Baghdad leadership's approach toward the UN decisions. By finally recognizing Kuwaiti sovereignty and agreeing to the demarcation of state borders, Baghdad has already implemented UN Security Council Resolution 833. However, the Kuwaiti parliament speaker was adamant:

"Iraq's implementation of the UN resolution should not be of a selective or excessively general nature," Mr. al-Sa'dun stated. "It is supposed to be full and unconditional. If this attitude becomes a reality and is in line with the requirements of international law, then I see no reason why the world community should continue with the embargo. In that case, it is not just Moscow that should have its debts repaid. I expect, first and foremost, that our state will be compensated not just for the previous Iraqi debts, but also for the enormous damage done by the aggression. In other words, the interests both of Russia and other countries, including those that have suffered one way or another from the war, should be met."

It would seem that for Kuwait all this is entirely justified and lawful. On the basis of such reasoning, you cannot accuse anyone of chauvinism or attempting to reduce the entire panorama of international life to the notorious "Desert Storm" and its consequences. On the contrary, the head of parliament of this Near East country showed himself to be a versatile and "unblinkered" interlocutor, so to speak. He spoke with enthusiasm, for example, about the growing freedom of discussion in modern Kuwait and the unhindered religious-political disputes between advocates of the introduction of the laws of Shari'ah, and its opponents. The guest also explained in a calm and considered way his state's special viewpoint—which does not entirely coincide with the Saudi viewpoint—on a regional security system.

In short, the high-ranking Kuwaiti envoy did not look like anyone's puppet at all. But alas, this did not make it easier for the Russians, who could do with the $5 billion that is stuck in the ill-fated region (now $7, taking into account the interest that has been "run up"—P.B.). Particularly today, given our economic situation, and not just the economic situation. Incidentally, we have been deprived of payments which we are owed for former cooperation programs with Baghdad precisely because, headed by the "restructurers," we took the side

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of Kuwait and its mighty patrons. Do people in the Kremlin and on the Foreign Ministry "hilltop" realize that a drained and blockaded Iraq is not in a position to carry out all the requirements imposed on it immediately and fully? So should we not urgently step up our own search for ways of breaking through the financial impasse, making the return home of the Russian billions one of the definite priorities in Russian Federation Near East policy in the current phase?

Deputy Minister Cited on Antibrain Drain Program

MM0912133394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Dec 94 Weekend Edition p 4

[Article from feature prepared by Albert Valentinov and Tatyana Kharlamova under the "Protocol" rubric: "Come Back, Scientist!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The calamitous position of Russian science, which is losing its best representatives, has finally led to the publication of the Russian Federation Government Decree "On an Interdepartmental Program of Measures To Regulate the Migration of Scientific and Scientific-Technical Cadres."

The mass brain drain, which in our country has assumed a disorderly nature not governed by normatives, has placed our scientists abroad in an inequitable position compared with their colleagues invited from other countries. They are paid far less, particularly in Asian regions, and they are ensured no social guarantees in the motherland if they have to return when their contract expires.

Andrey Fonotov, first deputy minister of science and technical policy, has reported that the program adopted by the government is aimed at placing our scientists' work abroad on a normative basis. It concerns both those scientists who themselves conclude a contract with foreign firms and those whose activity abroad is governed by interstate agreements.

Serious defects in the existing legislation came to light in the process of working on the program. For example, there is no definition of intellectual property—which prevents its disposal on a legal basis. The status of the scientific institute has not been elaborated. We still have just two statuses—that of the enterprise and the organization, and both these structures are liable to be privatized. But how can we privatize an institute, if it is not land or a building but brains?

The contract system, under which wages are determined not according to tariff guides but depending on the importance of a scientist's work and on his talent, has at last been legitimated. Previously tried out at their own risk by certain bold institute directors, it has fully justified itself. It will be introduced everywhere. For example, the Academy of Sciences Physics Institute has already concluded contracts with its own staffers who have gone abroad. They are not paid wages, but those who decide to return are ensured their former post.

The program devotes special attention to the position of our scientists abroad. Henceforth, a scientist's wages, his social guarantees, and the possibility of acquiring dual citizenship will be clearly agreed with the inviting firm before traveling. Those who wish to return will be provided with housing and work in the motherland.

Of course, the program did not overlook the problem of scientists' wages in Russia, whose scanty proportions serve as one cause of the brain drain. As Andrey Georgiyevich reported, the ministry will insist on their sharp increase. Particularly on special support for leading scientists. This will take $60 million annually. The ministry already tried to get this sum out of the government two years ago, but unsuccessfully. Now that the brain drain situation has been sharply exacerbated, there is hope of getting this money. It is significant that many of our scientists abroad, according to the deputy minister, have declared that they will return to Russia without delay if the program is implemented.

But the program is only a program. To implement it, it is necessary to draw up a number of laws and legally binding acts defining the scientist's legal, social, and economic status and measures to protect his rights. Will it not turn out that, in escaping the hands of officials who are very concerned about the state's "interests," these normatives will do very little to ease the life of scientists in Russia but, on the other hand, will make it considerably harder for them to go abroad?

This possibility cannot be ruled out, the first deputy minister believes. When someone has been disarmed in front of officials, he is without rights. Laws are needed to protect him. And executive discipline. The ministry will strive for this.

Official Previews Chernomyrdin Visit To India

LD0912171694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1516 GMT 9 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military-technical cooperation between Russia and India should be put on a regular basis. This is a task to be accomplished by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during his visit to India planned for December 21-24, the Director of the Third Asian Department Yuriy Kotov told Interfax's correspondent.

As he said, "in Moscow last summer President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao agreed to work out a concrete program for military-technical cooperation in the next three to five years to enable our producers to know what is expected of them." "Intensive enough negotiations are already in progress. Some plans have already been made, and a number of documents

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may be signed during the Russian prime minister's visit. But it is premature to speak about them," the diplomat stressed.

Chernomyrdin's delegation may include the new leader of the Russian Arms Company, Aleksandr Kotelkin.

As Kotov said, there are also plans to sign documents on trade and economic cooperation during Chernomyrdin's visit to Delhi. "In the past year and a half Russia and India signed about 30 different agreements. However there are still areas in bilateral cooperation which require a legal base, since the agreements signed with the former USSR have become null and void, and they need to be considerably renovated. We are working on these documents now," the diplomat said.

According to him, this involves agreements in the area of air and sea transport, mutual encouragement and protection of investment, and military-technical cooperation. There are good schemes in the scientific area. A number of agreements on jointly developing outer space are in preparation," he said.

Kotov made it clear that the issue of using India's debt, which, according to him, amounts to about ten billion dollars, by Russia will also be raised during Chernomyrdin's visit. "India used to honor its commitments to Russia accurately. However a malfunction occurred two or three years ago. It was settled during President Yeltsin's visit to Delhi," he explained. About one billion dollars in rupees lay on our account in the Bank of India until recently. Now these funds began to be used. Some of them were sold to Russian banks and companies at auctions, some were used to pay Russia's old debts, some will be used through government channels."

However, Kotov conceded, this business is not always smooth. "The problem is how to use the funds India pays to cover its debt to Russia in the best way possible," he pointed out. "There are plans to use them in modernizing industrial facilities in India, in purchasing goods and in financing the works connected with the expansion of the port of Novorossiysk."

According to the diplomat, the Indians displayed great interest in the latter project. Several contracts have already been signed on Indian participation in the efforts to modernize and develop the port of Novorossiysk, he said.

As Kotov noted, the Russian prime minister also intends to discuss with the Indian leadership "a wide range of international and regional problems." "There is good political interaction between Moscow and Delhi now, and it is becoming increasingly deep and concrete," the diplomat pointed out.

According to him, the two sides will focus on issues connected with the need to ensure security on Russia's southern flanks, normalize the situation in Afghanistan and in and around Tajikistan, and neutralize extremist groups.

Speaking about Russia's attitude to India's desire to receive the status of a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Kotov stressed: "We have always proceeded from the need of a composite approach to this issue."

According to him, "there is a need to work out parameters that would determine permanent membership in the Security Council."

"We have always believed that, taking into account the number of its population, territory and the level of economic development, India answers to such parameters. So, when the issue of admitting India to the UN Security Council as a permanent member is raised concretely, Russia's attitude will be positive," the diplomat stressed.

Nevertheless he made it clear that the time for such step has not come yet.

Chernomyrdin, Kazakh Premier Sign Baykonur Lease Agreement

LD1012134494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Dec—Russia is taking a lease on the premises and facilities of the Baykonur cosmodrome, the town of Leninsk and their infrastructure for a period of 20 years with a right to extend the treaty and an obligation to pay an annual rent of $115 million. This is said in an intergovernment agreement on the lease conditions of the Baykonur cosmodrome, which was signed today by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and his Kazakh counterpart Akezhan Kazhegeldin.

Replying to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Chernomyrdin stressed that Russian laws would apply on the leased territory, however, in close coordination with the Kazakhstan side.

The signing of the agreement, said the head of the Russian Government, meets the interests of the Russian and Kazakh sides and resolves the social problems of the specialists who live in the town of Leninsk and work at the cosmodrome. Finally, an interstate agreement on the Baykonur lease, which was signed nearly a year ago by the presidents of the two independent states, will be implemented, the prime minister said.

In addition, a number of documents on the renting by the Russian side of some military facilities on Kazakhstan territory, inter alia military test ranges, is ready for signing. They may be signed in the very near future, said Chernomyrdin.

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Moscow Said Planning To Build Nuclear Plant in China

MK1012121094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Viktor Zamyatin under the "IAEA Session" rubric: "Nuclear Problems Do Not Limit Themselves to North Korea"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A regular session of the IAEA board of managers began in Vienna 8 December with a jubilant report by General Director Hans Blix: the DPRK has finally frozen its nuclear program. The Korean subject did not end there, however. Yesterday a report arrived saying Pyongyang demands that South Korea make its nuclear program public. Meanwhile, the IAEA has lots of other problems to deal with—radiation safety, technical assistance, and the smuggling of nuclear materials. [passage omitted]

In Vienna, the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station will definitely surface as a subject of discussion. The ill-fated power plant will apparently be shut down, all the more so because the EC promised to prop up Kiev's resolve financially. At the same time, Ukraine does not intend to give up its nuclear power industry—in November, the Republic's nuclear power stations produced 37.4 percent of the entire electric power output. The United States has already proposed to Kiev a joint project of constructing a new nuclear electric power station to replace the Chernobyl plant. Moscow's attitude to this project is not known yet. What is known, however, is that Atomenergoeksport has conducted and presented to China a feasibility study on the project calling for the construction of a nuclear electric power station in Liaoning province; the company's plans also feature equipment supplies to India to build two nuclear power units of 1,000 megawatts each. Slovakia is also showing interest in Russian technological developments. But these plans might well fail to materialize—Western companies have increasingly often managed to convince customers that their equipment is much safer than Russia's. In the meantime, precisely nuclear safety problems make up the second package of matters to be discussed at the Vienna session.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin on U.S. Differences Over NATO

LD1012221794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by correspondent Sergey Medvedev on disagreements that arose between Moscow and Washington concerning the future role and size of NATO; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Medvedev] Boris Nikolayevich, do you see any possibilities for drawing together the Americans' and our positions on this problem or are you going to adopt a distinctly separate stance?

[Yeltsin] I think it is necessary to seek ways of drawing closer together. Otherwise we shall move further apart. Otherwise what is the point of partnership? But partnership is needed in order that the partners somehow support one another and seek compromises that would suit one side and the other. Well, to give you an example, first, we must not hurry. We can come to an agreement on this point and I think that after a discussion the American side will accept this. Second, the conditions of admission to NATO are very strict. Again, the American side can agree to this.

[Medvedev] Bill Clinton said today that NATO is open to everyone.

[Yeltsin] Yes, but he omitted to say: except Russia. [both laugh] And this is the whole crux of the matter. But to us, in a narrower circle, he has said this. And then, it is not the same thing.

[Medvedev] But if they invited us to join, would we see the whole thing differently?

[Yeltsin] You know, we have already discussed this issue several times, in our Security Council, at the ministry, and with the foreign minister, and it is our opinion that at some point we may become ready for the political part of NATO.

[Medvedev] But we are not ready now?

[Yeltsin] Not as yet. Not for the political part. It is quite possible that we shall enter a political alliance with NATO and then at least we shall not be kept apart from the issues, which all European countries will be discussing if they all suddenly become members of NATO. We too must prepare some way of retreat. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Yeltsin 'Optimistic' About Hospital Stay

LD1012144994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first aide to President Yeltsin Viktor Ilyushin told newsmen Saturday in the Moscow Kremlin that Yeltsin is to spend no more than 5 to 7 days in hospital.

In response to a question from Interfax, Ilyushin said that "admission to hospital is no obstacle for necessary meetings between Yeltsin and other public servants." Yeltsin checked into the Central Clinical Center for planned surgery on his nasal septum.

In Ilyushin's view, Yetsin may be expected to meet with US Vice-President Al Gore who arrives in Moscow on December 15.

According to Ilyushin, Yeltsin did have problems with his nasal septum which was injured a long time ago. "He took the operation in good stride and feels optimistic," Iliushin who talked twice with Yeltsin Saturday told the media people. The briefing was held to calm down the media which were quick to respond to earlier information on what Iliushin describes as "quite simple surgery."

Yeltsin keeps working on new bills of law which will soon be presented to the State Duma, Ilyushin said.

Operation 'Successful;' May Meet Gore

LD1012130494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1206 GMT 10 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Dec—The operation on President Yeltsin's nasal septum was successful and he intends to resume work next week. This was stated at a briefing in the Kremlin today by Viktor Ilyushin, first aide to the Russian president.

Ilyushin said that the rehabilitation period would last five to seven days. "This morning I had two conversations with Boris Nikolayevich," the presidential aide said. "During our talk current working issues were touched upon." Incidentally, he added, the president of Russia has already held a number of working meetings in the Central Clinical Hospital where his operation took place.

Viktor Ilyushin did not rule out that the meeting between the Russian President and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore which is scheduled for next week could still take place.

To Return to Work in '8 Days'

LD1012080994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin was hospitalised at the central clinical hospital where he underwent a surgical operation of the nasal septum, ITAR-TASS learnt at the Russian president's press service on Saturday.

"The operation passed without complications," a report of the press service says. "An approximate time of rehabilitation with a possibility to work is eight days."

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Yeltsin's Future Seen To Hang on Chechen Edict

MK1012111094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Dec 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov under the "Situation in Chechnya" rubric: "Moscow Begins and..."]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Russian president has issued the edict "On Measures To Stop the Activity of Unlawful Armed Formations on the Territory of the Chechen Republic and in the Area of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict," authorizing the government to use "all means available to the state" to bring order to Chechnya. Since Moscow has already applied all means of political pressure on President Dudayev, one may suggest that now the issue is a military operation. [passage omitted]

The responsibility Boris Yeltsin is thereby assuming is so great that it will be quite explicable if he puts off the start of the operation and tries once again to resolve the problem peacefully through representatives of the federal authorities who left yesterday for the North Caucasus. But, as has repeatedly been said, a bad peace would be unacceptable for the Kremlin in this particular case. Even the Federation Council, which is generally not inclined to meet the president halfway, did not particularly oppose the introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya, albeit only with the deputies' consent. All the more so because Groznyy wants to talk with Moscow only as a capital of another state. Moscow, however, has reiterated quite recently in a decisive and categorical manner that Chechnya is but one of 89 Federation components. With both sides sticking to their guns, it is virtually impossible to find a common language.

Clearly, by issuing the edict "On Measures To Stop the Activity of Unlawful Armed Formations on the Territory of the Chechen Republic and in the Area of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict" with the possibility of armed clashes in Chechnya in mind, the president has put everything at stake. This will render him to a certain extent a hostage to those who will be carrying out his edict. If they manage to bring order to the region quickly and decisively, Boris Yeltsin will be able to bolster his authority among a considerable part of the electorate. If actions of the power agencies prove to be ineffective and indecisive, however (as was the case in October of last year in Moscow), time will not be on the president's side.

Yeltsin Delivers Statement on Chechnya Plans

LD1212134494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1257 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Dec—The press service of the president of the Russian Federation has communicated the text of a statement by Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, to deputies of the Council of the Federation and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The statement says:

Esteemed deputies!

I share your alarm in connection with the development of events in the Chechen Republic and certain other areas of the Russian Federation's northern Caucasus. We are united by our recognition of the preeminence of the Constitution and the use of political methods, and first of all negotiations, in resolving the Chechen problem. This is clearly stated in the president's message to the Federal Assembly, the decisions of the State Duma of 25 March 1994 and of the Council of the Federation of 9 December 1994, the edicts that I have adopted, and my statement of yesterday to the citizens of Russia.

The chambers of the Federal Assembly and the deputies elected by the people have to formulate their own constructive point of view on ways of emerging from the crisis. I consider it necessary to specify the framework conditions for negotiations together with the chambers of the Federal Assembly.

First: The object of the talks. Does the Russian delegation need to hold talks on the status of the Chechen Republic as a member of the Russian Federation? Is the Federal Assembly prepared to introduce changes to the Constitution, taking account of all the possible political consequences?

Second: The subject of the talks. With which specifically political forces of the Chechen Republic is it necessary to hold talks on these problems? The State Duma resolution of 25 March 1994 suggests that the executive authority only hold consultations. A special decision, legitimizing the results of the presidential elections in the Chechen Republic, is needed for official talks with D. Dudayev.

Third: The conditions for the talks. Should the holding of free elections in the Chechen Republic, which is referred to in Clause 2 of the State Duma resolution of 25 March 1994, be considered a necessary precondition for talks? If yes, then how in the current conditions is it proposed to guarantee the holding of free elections?

I suggest that representatives of the Federation Council and State Duma, together with representatives of the president, could take part in the supervision commission [nablyudatelnaya kommissiya] which has taken on the function of monitoring the observation of citizens' rights and freedoms in implementation of the decisions on restoring constitutional order on the territory of the Chechen Republic.

The Chechen crisis, threatening the integrity of Russia and the calm and security of its citizens, calls for an urgent solution. It is unacceptable to make use of it to heighten tension in society, to kindle opposition between the branches of power, or to search for opportunistic political advantage. It is irresponsible to use the tragedy of the Chechen people, the pain of the whole of Russia, in the preelection circus.

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Success can be achieved only with the consolidation of all constructive political forces of the country, uniting the forces of all bodies of federal power.

Soskovets: Chechnya Situation 'Controllable'

LD1212135694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—First Vice-Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said the situation in the rebel republic of Chechnya is "controllable."

Speaking at a meeting of the Moscow city authorities on Monday, Soskovets confirmed the powers of the Russian delegation to the talks with Chechnya, which began in Vladikavkaz on Monday.

Soskovets, who is head of the special operational command set up to coordinate the efforts of the federal bodies of power in solving the Chechen conflict, said that he "pins big hopes" on the talks.

He supported an appeal to Muscovites adopted by the Moscow authorities, in which they denounced the actions of public and political organisations and their leaders who call for unsanctioned rallies and demonstrations.

Soskovets said that on December 13 the government will consider the implementation of the resolution on urgent measures to restore and develop the economic and social sphere in the Chechen Republic.

Parliamentary Groups Give Chechnya Stand

LD1212153394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12—The heads of all factions of the State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament) expressed their viewpoints on ways of settling the conflict in Chechnya at a meeting of the Duma Council (all parliamentary groups are represented on the council) on Monday, Duma Deputy Speaker Mikhail Mityukov told a news conference here today.

Speakers at the news conference made public positions of all parliamentary groups concerning the situation in the Chechen Republic.

According to Mityukov, Speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin, addressing the meeting, informed the heads of parliamentary groups of documents and actions by the Russian president and government in the zone of the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic.

"In actual fact, the meeting of the Duma Council turned into a mini-plenary session of the chamber," he stressed.

Speaking at the news conference after the end of the Council's meeting, leader of the Agrarian Party faction Mikhail Lapshin noted that, despite the dispatch of troops to Chechnya, there are still conditions for peaceful negotiations.

"The president and the government have reasons to stop and start negotiations but at a higher level," he said.

Leader of the "Yabloko" faction Grigoriy Yavlinskiy underlined that his faction favours a political settlement of the conflict in the belief that it is not accidental that the authorities resorted "precisely to this way of settling the conflict due to their impotence".

"What is brewing in Chechnya today will not lead to a positive result." According to Yavlinskiy, there is a prospect for a long Caucasian war.

Russia's Choice leader Yegor Gaydar said that it is necessary to stop troop movements in Chechnya and to prevent the capture of Groznyy.

It is also necessary to call on Russian servicemen not to fall in for provocations as well as to call on Chechen fighters to prevent provocations against Russian troops, he noted. Gaydar underlined that it is necessary to hold negotiations where forms of preventing a military conflict should be determined.

Elections should be held in Chechnya, he claimed. Gaydar noted that his faction put forth an initiative to call a plenary session of the house on Tuesday to discuss the situation in Chechnya.

Representative from the "Pres" faction Sergey Boskholov noted that his group advocates a settlement of the conflict peacefully. Talks with all sides engaged in the conflict are necessary, he stressed.

Their aim should be restoration of the Russian Constitution in Chechnya and creation of conditions for subsequent elections in the republic.

Yekaterina Lakhova, chairman of the Women of Russia faction, noted that her group favours Russia's unity, but this should be achieved through "the use of all political methods".

She also expressed concern that, in her opinion, the mass media do not give unbiased information "above all, from people who are responsible for conducting the present operations in Chechnya", that is from the government.

"For instance, Viktor Chernomyrdin has not spoken at all" on this issue, she underlined.

Leader of the Democratic Party of Russia faction Sergey Glazyev called on deputies to set up a watchdog commission of the State Duma which would participate in the talks of all interested sides in Chechnya.

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He noted that his faction denounced the use of force in the Chechen Republic and favoured negotiations. Glazyev claimed that the position of the Russian Government in the Chechen conflict is "a logical continuation of lawless decisions, starting from the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreements" (eds: the decision taken by the Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian [Belarusian] presidents that the Soviet Union did not exist any more).

He called the dispatch of army units to Chechnya "a continuation of the October 1993 execution" (eds: Glazyev had in mind firing from tanks on the Russian parliament building where Khasbulatov, Rutskoy and their followers were).

Glazyev suggested that the Duma conduct a preliminary investigation of events in Chechnya and find out responsibility of government officials for adopting decisions on the use of force.

He favoured Chernomyrdin's participation in a plenary meeting of the State Duma on Tuesday, where it is planned to adopt documents on the situation in the Chechen Republic.

"The hand-out of sovereignties and weapons always led to wars," said chairman of the Communist Faction Gennadiy Zyuganov. In his opinion, a civil war has already started in Russia, "a logical consequence of the government policy".

"The military operation in Chechnya resembles a ring which encircled the Russian parliament building last year," he said, noting that "the present authorities are unable to rule the country democratically".

Zyuganov called on the two arms of government to switch the situation in Chechnya to a negotiating process in which (in his opinion) Chechen elders and the Chechen community in Moscow should also participate.

The communist leader backed Glazyev's idea to set up a watchdog commission of the State Duma and insisted that "the parliamentary hour" should be resumed on television.

Zyuganov recalled a proposal by several lawmakers who insisted on making amendments to the Russian Constitution on parliamentary control over actions of the executive power and reiterated an idea repeatedly expressed by communists on the need for denouncing the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreements.

Representative from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Anatoliy Sidorov noted that his party backed in the past the adoption of the new Russian Constitution. However, he expressed doubts that it will be possible to avoid conflicts in future, similar to the one in Chechnya.

"Until the nationality principle lies at the basis of the state structure, such conflicts can recur," he said.

Stressing that the Chechen Republic is a member of the Russian Federation, Sidorov pointed to legality of the president's decree and documents of the government on settling the Chechen conflict and to their conformity with the requirements of the Russian Constitution.

At the same time, the legislator backed a proposal by other factions which insist on a peaceful and political settlement of the Chechen strife.

Leader of the New Regional Policy group Vladimir Medvedev noted that his followers repeatedly raised the question on solving immediately problems facing all the members of the Russian Federation.

"Each of them has its own problems and difficulties," he noted. However, the present "ostrich" (according to Medvedev) policy pursued by the government has led to the present situation in Chechnya.

The head of this group opposed a solution of the Chechen problem by force. His group is ready to participate in the work of the watchdog group, he noted.

Medvedev expressed disagreement with those legislators who regard Speaker Rybkin guilty of not taking any documents on the Chechen situation last Friday.

Deputy Speaker Mityukov told journalists on Monday that the lower chamber will confirm today's position of factions at its special plenary session on Tuesday and the need for settling the Chechen crisis peacefully.

Dudayev Calls Russia 'Threat to World'

BR1212143094 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 12 Dec 94 p 5

[Interview with Chechen President Dzokhar Dudayev by Maddalena Tulanti in Groznyy; date not given: "I, the Messiah of Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Tulanti] Do you prefer to be called general or president?

[Dudayev] I always ask the ladies to choose. You decide.

[Tulanti] Then I will address you as president; I am more at home dealing with civilians... Mr. President, why have you cut the Chechen Republic off from Russia?

[Dudayev] Why have the other countries untied the knot?

[Tulanti] So your struggle is a battle for independence?

[Dudayev] Independence is not an end in itself. There are principles that do not allow a whole people to live in the image and likeness of another. The Chechen people are prepared to live in their own image and likeness, not that of the Russians.

[Tulanti] Nevertheless, the Russians say that this is their land...

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[Dudayev] They can say what they want. They could also say that Italy is Russian land. Moscow has a considerable appetite. They say they can stretch to the Indian Ocean, the Bosphorus, and the English Channel. So must we sit back and let them? They will begin with Chechnya and end up at the Channel and the Bosphorus. If there is no international mechanism to control aggression, they will force their way into everybody's home.

[Tulanti] Do you think that they will really enter Groznyy?

[Dudayev] They already have. And more than once. They did so for the fourth time on 26 November. They already came in 1991, when 70,000 of their troops were still in the Chechnya; they occupied part of the territory with tanks in 1992; they organized an armed opposition coup in 1993, and now they have launched the open assault of the last few days. Chechnya can be entered only with swords drawn, and a war, albeit an undeclared one, is under way here.

[Tulanti] Chechnya has a terrible reputation. They say it is a bandits' lair, that it shelters the mafia...

[Dudayev] I have read a lot of negative reports about Italy, too, but I know they are not true. The story of the Chechen mafia has been made up from scratch to discredit my people. Usurpers always need a factor on which to speculate. After the mafia, they invented Islamic fundamentalism: God only knows what they have in common. Where does the truth lie? The truth is that, while no legitimate power emerged in Russia when the USSR fell apart, a state of law was set up in Chechnya. Now they want to destroy that state. On 26 November, the city was invaded by over 170 tanks, 5,000 mercenaries, and fighter aircraft that dropped bombs and fired missiles. This is a precedent. The Russians want to make it known that they will do the same in any other part of the empire.

[Tulanti] Are all the Chechen people with you? What about the opposition?

[Dudayev] There are criminal elements in all races, but we will deal with them. Anyway, even if I wanted to, I could not back down now. The Chechen people would not let me; independence is a vital right.

[Tulanti] What is the road to peace?

[Dudayev] It is a peaceful road. Military roads lead nowhere, least of all to peace. Russia is a threat to the world. Russia's political leaders are demanding of the military a political solution to a clash that is exclusively military. And when the military is called upon to provide solutions, the point of collapse has already been reached.

[Tulanti] How long will all this last?

[Dudayev] Russia is unpredictable. There is no reliable analysis, forecasting, diplomacy, or legality. There is nothing in which trust can be placed. They tear along like bulls that have seen a red cloth, and they constantly need external problems because they are afraid of addressing the domestic situation. The Russians suufer from chronic "Russia-ism." The world must cure Russia of this disease, but nobody wants to take on the job.

[Tulanti] How should the disease be cured?

[Dudayev] By forcing Russia to comply with international law on the one hand and with divine law on the other. The Vatican could play a major role.

[Tulanti] Is that an official request?

[Dudayev] We have already appealed to the pope, because we do not trust the Orthodox Church, which serves the Kremlin's interests too much.

[Tulanti] Why did you appeal to Gorbachev?

[Dudayev] I consider him an extraordinary reformer. He embarked on an important course, and I am sure that he still has a future, that he is the only one capable of leading Russia today.

[Tulanti] But the Russians do not think so...

[Dudayev] In 1985, 1986, and 1987, they welcomed him with tears in their eyes. Things may change again... I make no forecasts, but in my view a lot of ills—ills which are chronic in Russia—would be cured if he came back. The people in power now are louts. Yeltsin coasted in on Gorbachev's breaker, then he dumped him and all the true democrats. Now he is surrounded by jailbirds. Let me tell you something: Terrible forces, armed with money and arms, will gain power in Russia. And it will be a tragedy.

[Tulanti] Do you miss the USSR?

[Dudayev] Things could and should have been done differently, with gradual democratic reforms. It would have been better for everyone. The USSR has fallen to pieces, and the attempt to hold it together has generated violence along the empire's whole border.

[Tulanti] What is the Chechnya of your dreams?

[Dudayev] Free.

[Tulanti] Free within the CIS?

[Dudayev] That is for the people to decide.

[Tulanti] Tell me about the war. Will it really happen?

[Dudayev] That is a difficult question. If it were up to me, I would set fire to myself in the marketplace to prevent it. But it is not up to me. I have said that if Russia and the world do not like me, let them acknowledge Chechnya's right to exist, and I will go away and grow flowers. I am not a politician. As a soldier, I can say only what I see. Old habits die hard.

[Tulanti] I have read that you are described as the new Khamil...

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[Dudayev] That would be blasphemy. Khamil was a genius, he kept the Russians on their knees for 27 years and built the first great Caucasian state. I am only concerned with little Chechnya.

[Tulanti] On whom can you rely?

[Dudayev] On God.

[Tulanti] No one else?

[Dudayev] No one.

Chechen Envoy in Moscow Calls For 'Peace'

LD1212154694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1306 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Statement by A.S. Alikhadzhiyev, Chechen diaspora representative in Moscow and participant in Federation Council meeting; from unscheduled "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chechen diaspora is monitoring the situation not only in Moscow but also in all regions of Russia, because we recently met here and there were representatives from all regions. All Chechens who live in Russia today, no matter where, throughout the territory of the Russian Federation, consider that place to be their home. I am a Muscovite and I consider Moscow to be my home today. If anyone plans to do anything here, I will be the first to prevent them. All Chechens are very sensible people and they all realize that only a peaceful solution to the problem will bring about the normalization of the situation.

Kozyrev: Human Rights Need Protection

LD1212155794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1452 GMT 12 Dec 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Touching on the situation in and around Chechnya at a meeting with journalists, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev spoke about the danger of hastening by inertia the collapse of Russia, of whipping up anarchy and confusion in the country.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] I think the introduction of order in the south, in Chechnya, is also a measure to defend human rights. If, unfortunately, the authorities there do not abandon other means, in order to restore constitutional order and freedom to our Russian citizens, they are Chechens but this does not stop them being Russian citizens, and their rights cannot be infringed just on this basis [sentence as heard]. [end recording]

[Announcer] Andrey Kozyrev said the possibilities of the talks process have not been exhausted. The special resolution is an extreme measure proportionate to the introduction of legality and law and order.

On Foreign Perception

LD1212164694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1635 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—Russia's foreign partners believe that the Chechen crisis is its internal matter and that it must be settled on the basis of the Russian Constitution, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev pointed out that the foreign governments' comments boiled down to the following: Russia has a democratic constitution and legitimate bodies of power. Their task is to ensure the observance of the constitution on the entire territory of Russia. "There could be no other reaction," Kozyrev added.

There is no conflict between Russia and Chechnya, he continued. There is a situation in which it is necessary to disarm illegal armed groups and "restore law and order" in Chechnya. The minister emphasised that the Russian troops were not taking actions against the population of the Chechen Republic. He said it was the faction leader's mistake to oppose the government's actions in Chechnya. At the same time, Kozyrev said that he intended to strengthen "spiritual kinship" with such leading democratic politicians as, for example, human rights activist Sergey Kovalyov.

Yeltsin Aid Acknowledges Groznyy Bombing

LD1212145594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1424 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspndents L. Aleksandrova and A. Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Dec—"Groznyy will not be stormed," presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told journalists gathered in the Kremlin today.

Another participant in the conversation—presidential aide Georgiy Satarov—has acknowledged that last night Russian aircraft dropped bombs on the outskirts of Groznyy.

"Those bombs contained leaflets, so if one is to regard this action as bombing, then it took place," Satarov said.

He advised journalists to check out information more thoroughly. "Disinformation is a major danger now," he said.

Shumeyko Hopes Talks Find Resolution

LD1212121694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—Russian troops were sent into the breakaway Republic of Chechnya to block its capital of Groznyy and the

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republic itself in order to ensure the disarmament of the warring sides, but are in no way going to fight against the Chechen population, according to Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko who expressed hope that the upcoming talks between official Groznyy and a Russian delegation in Vladikavkaz would be successful.

"There is no war with the Chechen people", Shumeyko told chairmen of Federation Council committees on Monday adding that even if the talks, which he characterised as "technical", fail, "the Russian troops will do everything so that the population does not suffer".

The troops, according to him, were sent to Chechnya to create two "isolation circles" against Groznyy and the republic in order to ensure the disarmament of the warring Chechen parties decreed by the Russian president.

Shumeyko said the presidential decree was "based on the opinion of the Security Council" of Russia and that the most important task at present is to ensure "the territorial integrity of the multi-national Russian state".

However, the speaker urged the president to nominate the last candidate for the Constitutional Court by Friday when the Federation Council is to consider the nomination. One vacant seat remains in the court which is therefore incapable of beginning work.

"It is impossible without the Constitutional Court to decide whether the actions of the president and the government are constitutional. This can be determined only by the Constitutional Court", Shumeyko said.

Aushev on Armed Operations Through Ingushetia

LD1212051494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0432 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Dec—A telephone conversation took place on Sunday evening between Dzhokhar Dudayev and Ruslan Aushev, president of Ingushetia, the ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from well-informed sources in the Chechen president's entourage.

According to the source, Ruslan Aushev confirmed that in a special statement addressed to the Russian leadership, he opposed the operations of the armed forces on the territory of Ingushetia, and gave his assurance that Ingushetia would make every effort to prevent Russian armored equipment from passing through the republic's territory. He also said that four Ingush citizens were killed on Sunday, that there were wounded, and that there was also extensive damage.

Chechen Seen as 'Fortress;' Groznyy Calm

LD1212045894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0420 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Dec—A journey by the ITAR-TASS correspondent during the night across the territory of Chechnya towards the border with Ingushetia showed that every more or less suitable piece of land, be it a rise or a bend in the road, has been made into a fortress. Bridges have been closed off with reinforced concrete blocks and appear to be mined.

In Groznyy itself the situation remains outwardly calm. The city is blacked out as the inhabitants fear the resumption of night-time bomb attacks. Patrols reinforced with people's militia are standing on duty at crossroads.

Russian Troops Seen 'Marching on Democracy'

LD1112221994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1313 GMT 11 Dec 94

[Commentary by Andrey Cherkizov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Something which was not very secret has been made absolutely manifest: Russian troops have started a march on Groznyy and on democracy. Their transport carries armed detachments of the Interim Council which only very recently were described as bandit formations. Or maybe it was not them who were called bandit formations but the armed forces of the legitimate president Dudayev? What is important for Moscow is not the essence but the name under whose cover it was more convenient to start an imperial war. This war will be neither short nor victorious. It will become a disgrace for both the Russian president, who is hiding in a hospital, and the government. It will bring inescapable grief to the homes of ordinary citizens of Russia whose sons, husbands and brothers will perish in this war. To hold talks on talks while secretly, at first, and then openly getting ready for war and, having started the war, regard it as a stimulus for talks, these tactics are familiar to us from history—Hitlerite tactics!

Dudayev's regime did not threaten Russia and it did not wage war on Russia. General Dudayev gave Russia back all the servicemen captured after the inept assault on Groznyy on 26 November. He kept his word. Moscow keeps its promises, too, by introducing troops. What for? Everything is very simple: it was itching to show its force, it wanted to say shush to an independent, indomitable, and proud people. Keep quiet, Chechen people! But Chechen people will hardly allow anyone to talk to them that way. I am sure that they will take up the daggers, as the old saying goes.

Our president, who has fallen ill so timely, will find new admirers, such as Mr. Zhirinovskiy and Mr. Barkashov. Our president can already consider himself completely safe against the threat of impeachment: even if the Duma's democratic factions risk to start the procedure, all the so-called opposition factions will support a president who is a patriot and a defender of state interests and, particularly, state integrity, a president who is a blood-stained guarantor of the Constitution! And if

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Russian troops get bogged down in an inglorious long and cruel slaughter, Viktor Chernomyrdin's head will roll. After all, it was he who made the decision on strong-arm actions since Yeltsin's decree does not mention such words. And there will be one rival less at the 1996 elections. But Mr. Yeltsin will have fewer electors, too. The president who has been repaired by medics but has lost honor now presides over an imperial, chauvinistic and anti-democratic Russia. But he is not my president any longer!

Deputy Sees Chechnya as 'Another Yugoslavia'

LD1112201894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia will "get a Yugoslavia of its own," the chairwoman of the so-called standing presidium of the Soviet Council of People's Deputies, Sazhiy Umalatova, told Interfax Sunday. Commenting on consequences of the deployment of Russian troops in Chechnya, she said "it is not a war against the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime and the Chechen but a huge and scaring provocation against Russia as a whole."

In her opinion, Russia will obtain "nothing but shame, but hatred to Moscow by small nations and peoples" from armed clashes in Chechnya.

The armed action in Chechnya is intended against the Russian army to "destroy its remains and the power structures - in short, to remove everything that impedes NATO troops to enter Russia and make it a colony," she stressed.

Umalatova ruled out the possibility of sabotage acts by the Chechen community in Moscow. The allegations are "nothing more than lies and deception, unless the authorities instigate something themselves to impose state of emergency in Russia," she added.

Gaydar Calls For Another Moscow Rally

LD1112164594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1458 GMT 11 Dec 94

[Video report by correspondent Konstantin Tochilin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tochilin] There were not very many people at the rally on Pushkin Square today—if you recall how many people have assembled for less significant events in the past. Incidentally, it is clear why—everything happened rather unexpectedly. That is why the meeting was not at the right height either—people standing in rows sometimes could not see or hear the speakers, and they discussed the situation in Chechnya among themselves. Many listened to the radio for more information round-ups from Chechnya rather than to the speakers. Incidentally, the majority of Muscovites were in agreement with State Duma deputies Ella Pamfilova, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Yuliy Vorontsov, and Yegor Gaydar.

[Begin recording] [Yavlinskiy] It may turn into a Caucasus war and, as citizens of Russia, we are protesting against our children being killed there and against a fratricidal civil war being waged there. I want to say that the politicians who are acting in this way are politicians who have brought us to fratricide.

[Tochilin] Are you saying that as a citizen of Russia? But what do you say as a State Duma deputy?

[Yavlinskiy] There is not a great deal of difference. [end recording]

[Tochilin] But nevertheless....[cuts to Gaydar]

[Begin Gaydar recording] The Duma, realistically, well, in any event, in the first place, did not do all it could. In my opinion, it was shameless not to. It could at least on Friday [9 December] have adopted the decision on Chechnya which was drawn up but was not adopted. In my opinion things were drawn out deliberately. There is no doubt that it is a moral decision. It is legally binding for bodies of power. Legally, bodies of power have the right to do what the like in this respect, but people should not only think about their rights but also about common sense, about the security of Russia, and the security of our citizens. [end recording]

[Tochilin] The rally is continuing now and it probably will not be the last. Yegor Gaydar called upon all opponents of a military solution to the Chechen problem to assemble again tomorrow in the same place.

Delegation Ready To Talk With Chechens

LD1112161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1544 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—Russia is ready to begin talks with the Chechen authorities and the Chechen opposition to settle the conflict in Chechnya scheduled, Russian Government Spokesman Valentin Sergeyev said.

The Russian delegation to the talks due to begin on December 12, 1994 will be led by Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, head of the Russian Government working Commission for Chechen Conflict Settlement. The delegation arrived in Vladikavkaz on Sunday.

The talks will aim at stopping the bloodshed and disarming illegal armed bands in Chechnya, and will be held "from the firm position of restoring constitutional order in Chechnya by all available means as envisaged by the respective presidential decree," Sergeyev said.

He stressed that despite the deployment of Russian troops in Chechnya there are no plans to storm its capital Groznyy.

Earlier today, Sergeyev said that the situation in and around the Chechen capital Groznyy and along the routes of the movement of Russian Army convoys remains normal.

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Sergeyev said that the local population reacts to the troop movement calmly.

He explained that the measures to seal off the rebel Republic of Chechnya and its capital aim at preventing mercenaries and adventure-seekers from penetrating the republic under the guise of sports or tourist groups, traders or relatives, as well as at keeping arms, explosives and drugs out of Chechnya. These tasks are being solved without shooting, Sergeyev added.

The government is taking measures to provide the Chechen population with food and other basic necessities, and restore the republic's infrastructure and economy.

Sergeyev expressed the hope that the measures to ensure the security and territorial integrity of Russia and enforce the legitimate rights and freedoms will be carried out peacefully.

Troops Enter Chechnya To 'Restore Order'

LD1112074094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0705 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Implementing the decree of the Russian Federation president on the disarming of illegal armed formations and the restoration of constitutional order, this morning armed groups of Russian Federation Defense Ministry and Russian Federation Interior Ministry troops, moving in three columns, entered the territory of the Chechen Republic. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from the press service of the Russian Federation Government today.

The columns are advancing at a speed of up to 20 km an hour in the direction of the city of Groznyy. No clashes have been recorded. The population of the regions through which the columns are advancing is remaining calm.

As a preliminary, the report of the press service of the Government of the Russian Federation says, conditions for the evacuation of the civilian population, in the first place children, women and old people, have been secured. This will enable the part of the edict of the president of the Russian Federation which speaks of disarming all groups operating illegally on the territory of the Chechen Republic to be implemented.

The armed formations led by Umar Avturkhanov are not involved in the operations of the sub-units of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation and the Interior Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation.

The Government of the Russian Federation is taking every measure to maintain constitutional order on the territory of the Chechen Republic and protect the population reliably from any manifestation of violence whatsoever on the part of extremist groups and formations. Rear sub-units of the Ministry of Defense and the interior troops of the Russian Federation are taking measures to supply the population with everything necessary, including food, the report of the press service of the Government of the Russian Federation says.

Yeltsin Aide: Invasion 'Dangerous Mistake'

LD1112112794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1047 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Dec—"The Army cannot defeat the population—this is borne out by the whole tragic experience of conflicts on the territory of the former USSR," Emil Pain, head of the Nationalities policy Branch of the administration of the Russian president, told ITAR-TASS in an interview today, in connection with the Russian troops being introduced into the territory of the Chechen Republic.

In the analyst's opinion, "if Russia's troops were brought in only to rayons of Chechnya that consider themselves to be part of the Russian Federation and are controlled by the opposition to Dzhokhar Dudayev, such a step could still have been justified as being aimed at defending Russian citizens against political persecution. But the attempt to subjugate by force territories supporting Dudayev is a most dangerous mistake. That should not have been."

Emil Pain recalled that the "Chechen conflict is flaring up in Moscow today, too. It has become a bone of contention between the executive and legislative power. Even if one considers the decisions by parliament on the Chechen question to be unconstructive, they should not be ignored."

The Presidential Council member warned the leadership of the country that "a new spiral of the power struggle may spell the collapse of all democratic development. Russia's democratic forces are against bringing troops into Chechnya. By acting against the will of democratic forces, the executive power may deprive itself of its only support."

Emil Pain said: "I very much hope that the political damage of the military operation that has begun in Chechnya may still be limited, for a victory for the party of war will spell defeat for Russia."

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned that specialists on national and regional politics in the administration of the president recommended to the head of state that should Russian troops be used against Chechnya, they should be brought in only to those rayons that support federal power, the formations of Umar Avturkhanov should be disarmed and similar demands should be made to Dzhokhar Dudayev's troops.

Spokesman Cites 'No Reason' for Invasion

LD1112152794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gannadiy Yezhov]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 11 Dec—Russia, as before, is ready to hold talks that were planned for 12 December with representatives of official Groznyy and the forces in opposition to it on settling the conflict in the Chechen Republic, Valentin Sergeyev, head of the press service of the government of the Russian Federation, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today. [passage omitted]

These talks aimed at ending bloodshed in the republic, and at obtaining the surrender of weapons by illegal armed formations, Valentin Sergeyev stressed, will be conducted by Moscow "from tough positions of restoring constitutional order in Chechnya by all means at the disposal of the state in fulfillment of the relevant presidential edict."

Even although Russian troops have been brought into the Chechen Republic to bring about law and order, it is not planned to storm Groznyy, the head of the press service of the government of Russia stressed.

Yeltsin Issues Order To Disarm Chechens

LD0912163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1613 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin today instructed the Government of the Russian Federation to use all means available to the state to disarm the armed groupings in the Chechen Republic and in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

An edict signed by the president, which ITAR-TASS received from the president's press service, says that under the Russian Federation Constitution "activities aimed at violating the integrity of the Russian Federation, undermining state security, establishing armed groupings, and stirring up ethnic and religious strife are illegal and outlawed." The edict notes that the Russian Security Council confirmed the presence in Chechnya and certain areas of the North Caucasus of illegal armed groupings—a factor which is leading to bloodshed, costing lives and violating citizens' rights.

The edict instructs the government to "use all means available to the state to safeguard state security, legality, citizens' rights and freedoms, maintenance of public order and the drive against crime, and to disarm all illegal groupings."

Yeltsin Has Authority To Declare Emergency

LD0912131794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A state of emergency can legally be imposed by the Russian president without the Federation Council's consent, Yelena Mizulina, deputy chairman of the Constitutional Legislation and Legal Issue Committee, told the upper house Friday.

Under the Emergency Situation Act the president has a right, Mizulina said, to use the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and other troops and units to cope in emergency situations. The president is not required to receive consent from the Federation Council concerning the procedure for introducing armed units, she explained. What is more, the law does not limit the term over which emergency rule can be imposed, Mizulina argued.

Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko raised the objection that the legislation does not cover political situations. In response, Mizulina quoted an article of the act under which emergencies may be imposed to deal with natural or technological disasters or other disasters. In her view, this formulation legally applies to political instability in parts of Russia.

Yeltsin Issues Chechnya 'Appeal'

LD1112184594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1755 GMT 11 Dec 94

["Text" of appeal by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, circulated by the presidential press service on 11 December—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear compatriots! Today, on 11 December 1994, sub-units of Russian Federation Interior and Defense Ministry troops were sent into the Chechen Republic. This action by the government was prompted by the threat posed to Russia's integrity, to the security of her citizens, both inside and outside Chechnya, and by the fact that the political and economic situation could be destabilized.

Our goal is to find a political solution to the problems of the Chechen Republic, of one of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and to protect its citizens against armed extremism. But at present the impending danger of a full-scale civil war in the Chechen Republic stands in the way of peace talks and the free expression of the Chechen people's will.

Talks between representatives of Russia and Chechnya have been planned for 12 December 1994. We must prevent their breakdown.

To set up a normal life in Chechnya, it is necessary that there should be constructive cooperation between all branches of power and responsible political forces in Russia, and a balanced and precise assessment. Tomorrow I intend to address the Federal Assembly with a proposal to jointly define framework conditions for holding talks.

The government has been instructed to act in keeping with the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation, taking into account the situation that has taken shape. As president, I shall look after the observance of the Constitution and the law. I bind all officials responsible for implementing measures for the restoration of

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constitutional order in the Chechen Republic not to use force against the peaceful population, and to take them under their protection.

I remind you that by 15 December 1994, in accordance with my decree, an amnesty is in force for all who voluntarily surrender their weapons.

I appeal to Russia's citizens of Chechen nationality. I am sure that you will soon be able to resolve the fate of your people yourselves, in peaceful conditions. I am counting on your wisdom.

Servicemen of Russia! You know that in doing your duty, defending the integrity of our country and the tranquillity of its citizens, you are under the protection of the Russian state, its Constitution, and laws.

The whole people of the republic, all people of Russia, have an interest in the restoration of peace on the territory of Chechnya. I am sure that only on this basis can the problems which today seem insoluble can be resolved.

[signed] B. Yeltsin

Moscow Sends Humanitarian Aid to Civilians

LD1112203994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2010 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Dec—Thousands of tons of humanitarian cargo (food, medicines, and fuel) are being sent to Chechnya for its civilian population. According to the information received by ITAR-TASS at the government's press service today, 50,000 tonnes of grain, 9,000 tonnes of macaroni and groats, 6,500 tonnes of meat and tinned meat, 1,500 tonnes of butter, and 9,000 tonnes of sugar are currently being delivered by the backup services of internal troops and the Defense Ministry to the republic's different regions which have suffered during the internal armed conflict. The same services are restoring communications lines, railroad, and roads.

Valentin Sergeyev, head of the government press service, noted that the implementation of the government decision adopted last Friday, on restoring the Chechen Republic's economy and social sphere damaged over last year, would start very soon.

'Small' Moscow Rally Condemns Chechen Action

LD1112142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1330 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Palariya, Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 December—"It is impossible to reinstate constitutional norms in the territory of the Republic of Chechnya with the help of tanks." This was the main mood of a meeting held by a small number of people today at 1200 GMT in Moscow's Pushkin Square. The meeting was organized by the Democratic Russia and Russian Democratic Reform movements and the Democratic Union.

In the view of the speakers "the introduction of Russian forces in Chechnya points at the striving to introduce a state of emergency throughout the country and to retain the power of the Russian politicians by all possible means".

Duma Protesters Urge Grachev Resignation

LD1112170594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1414 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Dec—At a meeting to protest against the introduction of Russian troops into Chechnya, Sergey Yushenkov, a deputy of the State Duma and chairman of its defense committee, today demanded the resignations of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov, Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov, and Federal Counterintelligence Service head Sergey Stepashin. The meeting on Pushkin Square was organized by deputies of the democratic fractions of the State Duma.

The participants held a moment of silence in memory of those who were killed during today's armed operation in Chechnya. Deputies Nikolay Vorontsov, Aleksandra Ochirova, Tamara Zlotnikova, and Sergey Kovalev spoke out against tanks being used in Chechnya to restore constitutional norms. They called upon Russian politicians to sit down at the negotiating table with Dzhokhar Dudayev's administration.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Sergey Kovalev, Russian Federation human rights plenipotentiary, called the bringing into Chechnya today of troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Defense "political treachery." In his opinion, Russian authorities "want to put Dzhokhar Dudayev in a situation of talks about conditions of capitulation. This is monstrous stupidity." Sergey Kovalev said that "democratic forces should stop the use of troops, for peaceful methods for settling the conflict have not been exhausted and the Dudayev administration is not renouncing them."

Parliamentary deputies drew attention to the fact that the choice of the time for carrying out military actions was particularly unfortunate—the eve of Constitution Day celebrations.

The Democratic Russia party and movement appealed today to the president, the head of government, and the chairmen of both chambers of parliament "to stop the movement of troops and military equipment through the territory of Chechnya and to hold talks with Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic."

Viktor Kurochkin, a Federation Council deputy in Chechnya, today stated that the use by executive power "of methods of force may lead to unpredictable tragic consequences."

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Soskovets Heads Crisis Committee on Chechnya

LD1112153994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—Russia's First Vice-Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets has been appointed head of the governmental crisis-management committee to settle the conflict in the rebel Republic of Chechnya, a high-ranking government official said on Sunday.

1 Dead, 7 Wounded in Ingushetia

LD1112110894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1032 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to official information from the Health Ministry of Ingushetia, one Ingush has been killed and seven wounded—three in Nazran and the rest near the built-up area of Barsuki—as a result of clashes between inhabitants of the republic and Russian servicemen from a column attacking Groznyy. You will recall that ITAR-TASS reported that two Ingush were wounded. There is no information about injuries among the Russian servicemen.

The apparatus of the Ingush president has informed us that a column of Russian forces has been halted near the built-up areas of (Smestovka) and Karbulak. These are on the approaches to the administrative border between Ingushetia and Chechnya. This information was confirmed for us by [Ingush President] Ruslan Aushev himself.

Chernomyrdin Approves 'Substitute' System

MM0912131594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Vice Premiers Will Now Have Stand-In Procedure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin has approved a procedure establishing stand-ins for deputy premiers during their absence because of leave, official business, or illness in accordance with the distribution of duties in the government. The cabinet chief's directive establishes which deputy stands in for which at work in the event of an enforced absence for an objective reason.

First on the list is Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, who is usually made responsible for the cabinet's operational management during the premier's temporary absence. Soskovets heads over 10 government commissions which are in charge of, in particular, questions regarding the operational management of the economy, resolving the payments crisis, and improving executive branch structures.

Under Chernomyrdin's decision, in the event of Soskovets' absence the range of questions assigned to him will be looked after by another first vice premier—Anatoliy Chubays. Chubays, as already reported, is responsible for macroeconomic and privatization problems and for looking after the Russian Federation's foreign economic relations.

In turn, in the event of Chubays' absence the set of questions assigned to him will be looked after by Soskovets.

Oleg Davydov, who is in charge of developing the Russian Federation's foreign economic relations, has been given the job of standing in for Vice Premier Aleksey Bolshakov, who is responsible in the cabinet for contacts with CIS countries. In the absence of Davydov himself, his range of duties will be passed over to Chubays. Chubays will also take on the portfolio of Vice Premier Vladimir Polevanov, chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, during his enforced absence.

Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who is responsible for the agro-industrial complex, will be replaced by Sergey Shakhray, who is in charge of nationalities policy, ties with regions, and questions concerning supplying and developing the northern territories.

In Shakhray's enforced absence his range of subjects will be passed over to Yuriy Yarov, who is in charge of the "social bloc" ministers.

If Shakhray is himself absent from work for an objective reason, Yarov will stand in for him. In the event that Yarov is ill or away on official business, he will be replaced by Zaveryukha.

Communists, Nationalist Win in Bryansk

LD1212102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bryansk December 12 TASS—Communists and a nationalist movement won by-elections to the local administration of the Bryansk region of Russia on Sunday, while representatives of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy sustained a complete defeat, according to the regional election commission.

The communists and the "Patriotic Bryansk" movement united in the

"People's Unity" bloc got seven out of nine seats in the local Duma, TASS was told at the election commission on Monday. Now they will have a majority in the regional legislature.

The remaining two seats went to independent candidates - a school director and a doctor.

Despite an active election campaign and personal support of Zhirinovskiy who had arrived in Bryansk to back

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his candidates, the Liberal-Democratic Party failed to win a seat in the local Duma.

Representatives of the local government also failed to get a parliamentary mandate. They included a deputy head of the regional administration, three leaders of district administrations and the chairman of the Bryansk property managing committee.

Democratic movements did not participate in the polls.

Member of the Federation Council and the chairman of its Security and Defence Committee Petr Shershov was among the winners. He is viewed as a real alternative to the current speaker of the local Duma - Valeriy Rogachev.

Leftist Union Favors 'Socialist Revitalization'

LD1112153894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orientation of the country towards "the socialist way of development and revitalization of the renewed USSR" are the main tasks of the Union of People's Resistance created in Russia.

The Union began its constituent conference in Moscow today. The conference collected about 180 delegates of 23 parties and movements.

The Union of People's Resistance "does not cherish parliamentary illusions. Neither does it push the people towards an armed rebellion," Chairman of the Russian Communist Party Anatoliy Kryuchkov told the conference. He said he believed that the Union could attain its goals "if the power is transferred to working people."

The Union intends to achieve its goals by organizing actions of civil defiance going as far as calling a nationwide political strike.

The majority of the Union's organization committee said they believed that former USSR people's deputy Sazhi Umalatova would become the Chairman of the Central Council of the Union of People's Resistance.

Kozyrev Leaves Russia's Choice Party

LD1112190894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1835 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Dec—In connection with the latest pronouncements by deputies Yegor Gaydar and Sergey Yushenkov, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that he is definitely leaving the "Russia's Choice" faction and will remain an independent deputy from the 116th Murmansk constituency.

The minister added that democracy does not mean absence of authority and separatism but state unity and order on the basis of the Russian Constitution.

Fedorov Kicks Off Election Campaign

MK0912105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Igor Lobanov in the "Candidate" column: "Boris Fedorov Is Preparing for Election Battles. He Believes That the Incumbent Government Has Turned Its Back on the Democrats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] State Duma deputy Boris Fedorov yesterday visited Perm where he met with the governor, the Perm mayor, and the speaker of the oblast legislature, held a press conference, and addressed a meeting of faculty and students of Perm State University. Before the meeting at the university, Fedorov circulated a statement which said in particular: "I categorically reject the practice of any decisions being pushed through the State Duma by blackmail. These actions have nothing to do with democracy and are even more dangerous than a bad budget. No one will intimidate us. Only political bankrupts, who are afraid to look their electors in the eye, fear elections. I do not agree that non-adoption of the budget should necessarily lead to the dissolution of the State Duma. What prevents the president from changing the government and drawing up a new budget and launching real reform? I doubt that the president will disband what is actually the third parliament in the past four years."

Speaking before students and staff, Fedorov accused the authorities of turning their backs on the democrats and reform. The current government, in his opinion, is incapable of addressing pressing social problems. Fedorov said that at present the conciliation commission of the Finance Ministry and the State Duma budget committee is considering a draft law on the tax system, worked out by the Liberal-Democratic Foundation of which he is the president. The former finance minister explained the main propositions of his draft and said that at present they are preparing alternative government draft laws on all forms of taxes.

Commenting on the situation around the Most group, Fedorov stated: "What the dirty rag, excuse me, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA is spreading, with anonymous signatures, is simply a political dirty provocation aimed against Luzhkov whom some quarters are seeing as too powerful a man. When Most group guards and drivers are thrown face first into the dirt by masked men, without any charges being made, I am disgusted in any event."

Boris Fedorov described the main aim of his visit to Perm as the "aspiration better to know my country," although he made no secret of his political motives: the intention to contest upcoming elections. Earlier, Boris Fedorov visited St. Petersburg, Kirov, and other cities, and plans to continue his visits to the provinces. He also mentioned among the reasons for the visit the search for cadres both for the Liberal-Democratic Foundation and

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for a future government, if he joins it. The deputy refused to comment on the concrete results of this search.

Deputies Reject 'Yeltsin's Law' Holiday

MK0912120094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov: "The State Duma Has Denied the Voters an Extra Day Off"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By an overwhelming majority of votes the State Duma yesterday turned down Boris Yeltsin's move to introduce an amendment into the Labor Code whereby 12 December, the day the new Russian Constitution was adopted, is proclaimed a public holiday.

The leader's bid, so natural and traditional for this country, to celebrate the adoption of his constitution ("Stalin's" was celebrated 5 December and "Brezhnev's" 7 October) has led to yet another political standoff. The opposition has never concealed its negative attitude toward the "Yeltsin" fundamental law, saying that the referendum results were rigged, and constantly talks about the need to introduce various changes into the constitution. This must be why the State Duma yesterday did not even begin to discuss the presidential move. Stating that "this is not a constitution whose adoption should be celebrated," the majority of deputies voted against the day off, with only 110 voting in favor.

Clearly, the wish to pique Yeltsin in any way proved to be stronger than a move which is more beneficial from the point of view of possible elections: giving the voters another day off. It is not ruled out that now next Monday will be declared a public holiday either by a presidential edict or a government order.

National Council Sets Up Far East Units

MK0912141094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 2

[Report from Khabarovsk by Oleg Kryuchek under the "Agitation" rubric: "Russian National Council Sets Up Cells in Far East Troops. Patriots Warn of Chewing Gum's Hazardous Effect on the Nation's Reproduction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A representative delegation of the Russian National Council [RNC] under Aleksandr Sterligov and Boris Mironov visited the Far East this week with the view to fostering the provincials' patriotism and setting up a few regional chapters of the organization.

According to Mr. Sterligov himself, the national idea fares quite badly in eastern Russia. The only thing that pleased the RNC activists was the vibrant process of setting up council cells in units and subunits of the Far East Military District. The former KGB general advised Pavel Grachev with a touch of malicious delight to watch his subordinates more closely, but would not name specific officers, saying only that the idea of setting up chapters at the district units originated with a district commander.

Boris Mironov announced a certain shift of emphasis in the RNC's public relations effort: a bloc with the communists and Mr. Zhirinovskiy's loyalists, which was appropriate just the day before, is no longer the order of the day. Now the Council, as a neoconservative organization, is interested in winning over younger politicians.

Messrs. Sterligov and Mironov spoke in duet against the import of foreign chewing gum to Russia because, according to their information, this product often contains substances that have contraceptive qualities. "Think about it," Gen. Sterligov said, concerned over the dreary prospects for the reproduction of Russians, "It is mostly children who chew it."

Agrarians Split; Land Owners Form Union

LD0912214794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1938 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Filatov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The Russian Agrarian Movement has split to give birth to a new public organization of the Union of Russian Land Owners.

The core of the union is farmers who have been joined by owners of countryside cottages, Cossacks and private agricultural enterprises. The new organization already has a strength of no less than 265,000 members as compared with the overall number of Russian farmers of about 30 millions.

The union plans to nominate its representatives and supporters to the representative and executive power bodies and stand for its interests with their help. "The union is not a hostile force. It will not act against others. The union will stand for itself and cooperate with the Democratic Choice of Russia, the December 12 Liberal-Democratic Union and the Yabloko bloc, as well as to find points of contact with the agraria.. movement", stressed participants in the constituent conference of the new organization.

The farmers have never had full accord with the Russian Agrarian Party many of whose members are farm directors and functionaries. The latter have secretly and openly resisted private agricultural businesses, assignment of land lots, issuance of credits and material-technical resources. It was the major reason for the creation of the union. Economic problems politicized many rural residents.

In the words of the union's coordinating council chairman Vladimir Bashmachnikov, the Union of Land Owners will stand for provision of the constitutional

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right to private land property and other forms of land ownership ensured by the legislation, protect political, economic, social and ecological rights of citizens who own land and use it in personal and public interests. The union will use its representatives in the state and government structures to ensure reliable legislative protection of rights and property of each Russian land owner. The union does not exclude a possibility of nominating its candidate at the upcoming presidential elections.

Economic Issues

1995 Deficit Set at 8 Percent, IMF Skeptical

LD0912201994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1805 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—"The improved draft budget for 1995 plans to cut the budget deficit to eight per cent in accordance with the calculation methods adopted by the International Monetary Fund," Russian Minister of Economy Yevgeniy Yasin told correspondents here today.

The document improved with due account of Duma remarks will be submitted by the government to the conciliatory commission in a week.

In the words of Yasin, the previous draft estimated the budget deficit at 7.8 per cent of the gross domestic product. This figure was given by Russian experts, but experts of the IMF think that it will no less than ten per cent. "We have to take into account their calculation methods", said Yasin. The budget deficit will be decreased with cancellation of benefits, increase of customs tariffs and reduced spending on a number of items. These measures are now elaborated by the Ministries of Finance and Economy.

Yasin positively estimated the work done by the conciliatory commission and said it is important that the government will finalize the draft budget with due account of deputies' remarks. He said that government concessions were positively taken by the deputies, but the government did not make concessions in basic things.

Chernomyrdin Signs Chechnya Economic Aid Package

LD1012130994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1244 GMT 10 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Dec—The Russian government has begun implementing a package of material and financial measures to support the collapsed economy of the regions in the zone of the armed conflict on the territory of the Chechen republic and the adjacent regions of the North Caucasus. These measures are being taken simultaneously with ensuring the state security and the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation. The relevant decisions of the government of the Russian Federation were signed today by government head Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The official report from the government press service on this subject says that the economic side of the government's actions is of great practical importance for the inhabitants of the Chechen republic and the whole of the North Caucasus. These actions will undoubtedly facilitate the implementation of the Russian President's decree of 9 December 1994.

Soskovets on Recovery, Growth, Stabilization

LD1112124194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—"There is no danger of an economic disaster in Russia any longer. An economic recovery and stabilisation phase begins," Russia's First Vice- Premier Oleg Soskovets told leading Russian news agencies on Sunday.

Soskovets visualises the main task of the new phase of the reform process in "ensuring the stabilisation of production and resumption of economic growth". The government seeks to accomplish this tasks within the next three years, he said.

According to Soskovets, in 1995 the Cabinet of Ministers intends to cease offsetting the budget deficit resultant of Central Bank credits and replace them with revenue from the sale of state securities and borrowings from foreign sources.

Soskovets believes that the state should switch the main resources over to stimulating growth in most effective production plants irrespective of the form of ownership.

In view of this, it is planned to give greater scope to investments in highly effective projects, direct a larger part of funds to the implementation of projects together with private investors on a share basis, support small and medium-sized businesses, and assist enterprises in drawing funds resultant of the second emission of shares.

Gaydar Favors 'Macroeconomics,' Strong Ruble

LD0912202494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The architect of Russian reforms, Yegor Gaydar, backed the "macroeconomic programme" of the Russian Government on Friday saying it should enjoy support and attention.

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He told a meeting of the Association of Privatised and Private Enterprises, of which he is the president, that the programme is mostly aimed at strengthening the Russian rouble without which no investments are possible.

"The essence of the programme is clear: To stop 'spoiling' the national currency which results in distracting considerable finances. Over two billion US dollars are extracted from the Russian economy as the population prefers to invest money by converting it into stable hard currency", he said.

If the rouble strengthens, banks may decrease the discount rate to 100 per cent. "Only then it would be possible to speak about the implementation of serious investment projects", Gaydar stressed.

Factions Form Over Economic Reform, 1995 Budget

MM1212101794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 2

["Opinion" by Vladimir Mau: "Legislators Look for Target"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In fall 1994 the main struggle over economic policy questions was concentrated in the sphere of mutual relations between the government and the State Duma. The natural milestones of this struggle were, on the one hand, the 27 October vote of confidence in the government and, on the other, the Duma debate scheduled for the end of November (or possibly the beginning of December) on the draft state budget for 1995, which is effectively tantamount to a new vote of confidence in the government. In the interval between these two events certain new and important political trends, which are directly associated with the nature of and the prospects for the implementation of economic reforms, have taken distinct shape.

All the indications are that a regrouping of pro-reform forces and the formation of a new pro-reform coalition is taking place. As new elections (parliamentary or presidential) draw near, those political groupings for which the success of economic reform is vital and whose political future directly depends on this success are becoming increasingly specific. Moreover, unlike at the end of 1992, a fairly general understanding of the criteria of this success is developing. Now even industrialists like V.S. Chernomyrdin see these criteria as achieving macroeconomic stabilization and starting economic growth on a new basis (unlike earlier notions of halting the recession at any cost, securing the reforms on a nonmonetary basis, etc).

Right now the president, the government chairman, and representatives of the reformist forces in the Duma which began economic reform in 1992 are interested in the seeing the reforms succeed before political upheavals (elections) begin. They are joined by a section of moderate, centrist forces which have no interest in an abrupt destabilization of the situation, because that inevitably leads to their disappearance from active political life. An understanding of this fact was reflected in Ye.T. Gaydar's call for the unification of all democratic, moderate political forces to avert the danger emanating from the radicals.

At the same time the "radical conservative" section of the political spectrum—the Communists (with Agrarians) and nationalists—is consolidating itself. They are directly allied to the official trade unions (former structures of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions)—something graphically demonstrated by the coincidence of the trade unions' 27 October antigovernment action with the Duma vote of confidence in the government. Any success from the reforms is extremely disadvantageous to them, both politically and economically (the economic groups associated with these political forces are not only clearly gaining from high inflation and the lack of real market competition; their very existence often depends on preserving economic instability). The main question for them now is the search for a new leader with the personal prestige to unite the radical opposition's rather disunited forces, if only for a time.

Finally, a section of deputies remain aloof, unwilling to take responsibility for the progress of economic reforms and anxious to dissociate themselves from the reforms and from government in potential voters' eyes (G.A. Yavlinskiy, B.G. Fedorov). But this tactic is making them too vulnerable, because to the main bulk of the population these names and the nuances of their positions are hard to distinguish from Gaydar's.

Evidently the political struggle coming in the near future will be conducted within the given configuration of forces, which means that soon we can expect new political combinations to emerge within the framework of the three named areas.

Outwardly the main political conflict will develop, as in October, between the government and the State Duma. This is something of a novelty of the political season. Up to now institutional confrontation has taken place on the "president-parliament" axis. The vote of confidence in the government graphically demonstrated the change in the situation in this respect. The attempts by a number of politicians (G.A. Yavlinskiy and G.A. Zyuganov) to restore the president as legislators' main target have had no practical result. The 27 October vote was merely a prelude to the further development of polemics between parliament and the government.

In the near future the struggle's center of gravity will shift to questions regarding the state budget for 1995. The likelihood of the Duma's adopting the budget is virtually nil. The debate on taxes which took place in the lower chamber 18 November and which ended in the government's defeat is an obvious test of strength prior to the impending new clashes. Under the Law on the Passage of the Budget adopted by the Federal Assembly, failure to

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adopt the budget must mean the government's resignation. Although the president has declared his intention to dispute this law in the Constitutional Court, it is quite likely that this measure will be used because there is a corresponding normative act.

Further, both the president and the Duma face a difficult choice. Undoubtedly the president's room for maneuver is expanding—he is getting the chance to disband both the government and parliament, to replace the premier or present him for reconfirmation, etc. Whereas the deputies' position is passive—they can only react to executive branch decisions. And they could find themselves in an election situation without new federal laws to regulate these elections. Not to mention that as a rule our deputies do not like to subject themselves to the risk of new elections.

True, the question of whether voters will turn out for elections (if they are called) remains open. But that is another question.

Yeltsin's Tax Law Veto Seen Good for 'Majority'

MM0912115594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 1

[Article by Lyudmila Biryukova: "It Is Not Deputies But Individuals Who are Entering into Dispute With the Kremlin. President's Veto on Duma Draft Law on Income Tax"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, the Russian Federation president has vetoed the draft law "On changes and additions to the Russian Federation law 'On income tax on individuals,'" which had been adopoted by the State Duma and approved by the Federation Council. This year B.N. Yeltsin has used his veto on nine occasions. Of course, the Duma was none too pleased about any of them. Remember the fuss after the veto on the draft law on the media. The latest veto also failed to get a rapturous reception.

What was it that drove the Russian Federation president to turn down the latest draft law?

This document incorporates a totally different income tax scale. It provides for an increase in the amount of annual income taxable at the minimum rate (12 percent) to 10 million rubles [R]. This means that all citizens receiving no more than R830,000 per month, will pay the minimum tax in accordance with the first point on the new scale (on the old scale the first point indicated an annual income of R5 million, that is, no more than R415,000 per month).

As we can see, under the new law, the reasonably highly paid citizens receive a large tax bonus this very year, 1994. Their payments will be comparable with those of people on the minimum, living wage. Is this fair?

Statistics show that only 22 percent of working people have annual incomes in excess of R5 million. All the rest fall short of this level. So the president's veto is in the interests of the vast majority of citizens. It is no bad thing for those who have joined the well-to-do category to share something with their compatriots who are temporarily experiencing financial difficulties. That is the social subtext of the president's decision.

There are economic reasons for it too. The draft law adopted by the State Duma could reduce tax revenue rather significantly. The veto undams the flow of taxes and unquestionably strengthens the budget. But ordinary people essentially have no truck with such macroeconomic concepts. They are concerned with their own welfare. Society can accept the fact that some of its highly skilled and hardworking and, therefore, well paid citizens will not get the long-awaited tax relief on one condition only. It must know how much extra tax will be collected and what it will actually be spent on. If the money goes to support small and medium businesses and the creation of new jobs, no one is likely to object. But people have the right to know what promising production units will get support. whether the market of home-produced goods will swell as a result, and whether the employment situation will improve.

Deputies must also receive guarantees that the extra tax that is collected will be used to patch up the many holes in the budget and will be spent in the interests of the majority of Russians, on the formation of a middle class capable of being the pillar of a democratic society.

Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the State Duma budget committee, said the other day that the Duma intends, in spite of everything, to beat the president's veto by adopting the draft law by a two-thirds vote. It has that right, of course. But the veto is not an ultimatum. And it is hardly worth the legislators' while to adopt the language of ultimatums in conversation with the executive authority. It is far more useful to analyze one another's arguments and adopt a really statesmanlike decision. And the state's interests derive from the interests of the majority of citizens.

So the president's veto should be regarded as an invitation to a statesmanlike dialogue between the Kremlin and the State Duma.

Currency Exchange Proposal Hopes To Limit Crime

MM1212085194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "You Can Only Buy Foreign Currency With a Form"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Bank of Russia is proposing to substantially alter the rules governing the purchase of foreign currency by individuals at exchange centers. The main innovation is that this operation can no longer be anonymous.

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Viktor Melnikov, head of the Central Bank Main Administration for Foreign Exchange Regulation and Foreign Exchange Controls, gave me a specimen of the form which will have to be completed in duplicate as of February when people are buying and selling foreign currency. The first paragraph here will be the client's surname, given name, and patronymic. This is followed by the name of the ID document and its serial number. You will also have to answer a question about whether you are a resident or nonresident—in other words a Russian citizen or not.

V. Melnikov stated that, first, presentation of documents at exchange centers is compulsory in many countries and, second, the situation regarding foreign cash is totally out of control in Russia, and controls are needed.

As confirmation he cited the following figures—from June last year through this December commercial banks alone have brought around $25 billion in cash into Russia. Even all the population's money would not be enough to buy all this foreign currency, but it has gone somewhere! We can quote the statistics for the first nine months of the current year—banks have brought $15 billion into the country and taken out only $103 million. Of course, some has been taken out by "shuttle traders," people on secondment, and tourists—but these are all trivial sums. So why is so much cash being brought in?

Central Bank specialists believe that the bulk of the dollars are going into the criminal sphere. Consequently, there is an urgent need to have strict controls over who is selling how much foreign currency!

V. Melnikov categorically stated that the new regulations are not aimed against ordinary citizens, but are aimed at combating maverick banks, which will now have to account for every dollar they sell. Incidentally, to prevent the forms being forged they will be produced by the Main Administration for Production of State Bank Notes, Coins, and Medals, and banks should order them now if they want to work with foreign-currency cash in the future.

It should be added that the new form replaces all existing forms—it will also make it possible to take foreign currency out of the country. But, I was told by the Central Bank, if anyone has an old-style foreign-currency export form, it can be used even after 1 February.

Tax Policy, Unemployment Remain Concerns

MM0912130594 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Yurlov: "Government and FITUR Leaders Understand Each Other Perfectly. But What Should Ordinary Trade Unionists Think?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oleg Soskovets, Anatoliy Chubays, and their government colleagues have received the leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia. And not at the best time for the country. Salary backlogs reached 4.7 trillion rubles in November. Unemployment is on the rise. It has increased by 800,000 in the past month alone. Tatyana Sosnina, chairman of the Textile and Light Industry Workers Trade Union Central Committee, reported that in textile regions there is one job vacancy for every 79 people.

And, finally, there is tax policy, which is increasingly a threat not only to enterprises but also to individuals. In short, they set out for the Cabinet of Ministers everything that is known and, seemingly, did a pretty good job of it.

The government was more than sympathetic about the trade union leaders' position, and the trade unionists, for their part, also showed understanding of the government's problems. For instance, how is unemployment to be avoided during a period of restructuring? Clearly, it will increase, but not to the level predicted by certain responsible and not very responsible specialists. Many of the ministers who took part in the meeting promised to pay off the salary backlogs by the end of the year, and Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin promised to finalize by 10 December all the draft laws on labor remuneration that have been submitted to the State Duma.

Officials, Labor Group Discuss Union Demands

MM0912133594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Fedor Yemchenko: "That Is the Way Capitalism Is. Talks Start Between Russian Government and FITUR"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government delegation was headed by two vice premiers (Oleg Soskovets and Anatoliy Chubays), while the trade union delegation was headed by Mikhail Shmakov. The talks were on how the trade unions' demands from the period of the mass protest of 27 October this year are being carried out.

As is well known, the trade unions put forward five basic demands—to eliminate the salary backlog, to solve the problem of enterprise defaulting, to solve the employment problem, to carry out the government's social guarantees, and to step up the fight against crime.

During the talks the sides made it clear that some of the demands had been carried out by the government. Thus, for instance, Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov announced that salary backlogs in the budgetary sphere had been cut from 1.9 trillion rubles [R] to R600 billion. The backlog will have been completely eliminated by the year's end. Where payments are to be made out of local budgets but the local authorities do not have the money, the Finance Ministry will provide financial assistance.

Aleksey Surikov, chairman of the Trade Union Solidary Action Coordinating Committee and deputy chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of

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Russia [FITUR], held a press conference at the FITUR on the results of day one of the talks.

Answering journalists' questions, Aleksey Ivanovich said that agreement had been reached with Anatoliy Chubays that the concept for a government program to get out of the crisis would be put to the trade unions for them to study it and make their proposals.

"We want the reforms," Aleksey Surikov said, "to be geared to working people. To serve to improve Russians' prosperity."

TRUD correspondent's question: "Aleksey Ivanovich, can you explain why Russia's trade union leaders in their speeches and public statements use terminology that has been espoused by politicians—market transformations and the return of Russia to a civilized society—rather than telling working people directly and openly that our country is restoring capitalism with all its positive and negative consequences? After all, you are well aware that under capitalism there is bound to be a reserve labor force and tough confrontation between the owners of capital and hired hands."

[Surikov] "We asked Oleg Soskovets that question too. We bluntly said to him that he should not play with words along the lines of 'the program for getting out of the crisis.' Tell the people what the government's ultimate goal is, where you are taking the country. And for how long you will be dooming the majority of the population to drag out a miserable existence. He promised to briefly formulate the government's position and publicize it."

Shafranik on Energy Conservation, Distribution

LD0912183194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1205 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday a governmental commission for operational issues approved the power engineering strategy and the basis of Russia's power engineering policy for the period up to the year 2010. In an exclusive interview with Business Russia, Yuriy Shafranik, minister of fuel and power engineering, commented on this decision.

[Begin Shafranik recording] The power engineering strategy is based on Russia's power engineering policy. It is one of the documents, the main documents, which should be and is being submitted following discussion in the foyer. We take into account the parameters for the development of power engineering in Russia, both the complex itself and power engineering as a whole. In many ways we are changing the orientation that we had in the 1980s.

The most important factor in the strategy is energy saving, the efficient use of energy. It is not just that we expend a great deal more energy than other countries—over the last two years this tendency has become worse. The most important section and direction itself in the document is that relating to efficiency and energy saving. I will comment on the most important consequences. This applies to all of us, ranging from the producer to the consumer, from the individual to the enterprise. We should have to pay for overexpenditure. Simply, to the individual, to the enterprise, it will look like this way, although naturally this is a large package of laws, of normative acts, but there is no getting away from it. And vice versa, those who use energy efficiently will be given all kinds of incentives by way of subsidies, special purpose funds on a territory, in a specific location.

The second aspect—the redistribution of energy resources throughout Russia, throughout the territory of Russia, that is gas, electrical power engineering, hydropower engineering, and oil, which is being dealt with in a somewhat different manner today. One cannot take all the coal from the Kuznetsk coal basin to Maritime Territory, and even to Ukraine, which is prepared to pay dollars. Therefore, fundamental and radical changes have occurred which we have included in the strategy. The consequences for each region will be extremely serious. The basic balance for gas, for electricity , for other types of fuel, will be changed. This applies to the development of existing facilities or the reconstruction of existing facilities, and the development of new production facilities. Some regions will use more coal, some regions will use more gas. That applies to life today and not only to the year 2010, as we have outlined.

Military Issues

Infantry Generals Contradict Grachev on Readiness

MM0912205794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Igor Chernyak: "Scandals: Infantry Generals Attack Grachev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In November, Minister P. Grachev publicly assured the president that, despite everything, the Russian Armed Forces entrusted to him are fully combat ready and capable of carrying out any task. Just how far this is from the truth was described in an appeal to the State Duma and the Federation Council by 11 generals—members of the Military Council of the Ground Forces led by Commander in Chief V. Semenov. For the Army this is an absurdity: An appeal from the upper echelons of, in point of fact, the main branch of the Russian Armed Forces made its way upward over the head of the defense minister. According to sources in the Defense Ministry, this is extremely serious, especially when it is remembered that not long ago Grachev's deputy, Gromov, and the very same Semenov sent a letter on the real situation in the Army to [Federation Council Chairman] V. Shumeyko too—again, without putting the minister in the picture.

"The problems...demand immediate intervention at state level. We are talking about the capacity of the

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Ground Forces in the prevailing conditions to fulfill the tasks expected of them," the appeal states. The scene described by the generals is very gloomy: Since 1992 there has not been a single (!) divisional training exercise, the pool of military hardware is in a sorry state, more than a third of the helicopters cannot fly, there is drastic undermanning, and even the troops emergency supplies have been "partially consumed" already and it will cost 1 trillion rubles to replenish them....

To be perfectly frank, we are talking here not just about an attempt by a group of generals to stand up to Grachev, but also the complete disintegration of Russia's Army. If this is true, then who will be answerable?

Defense Ministry Leaders Seen as 'Out of Touch'

MK0912131094 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Viktor Yershov: "The Defense Minister Has it in for Everyone" [na Vsekh Imeyet Zud—pun based on the idiomatic expression "imet' zub," have a grudge to bear; and "zud," have an itch]]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Chapter One: Original

Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev from time to time shocks his compatriots with sensational statements. One of them was a proposal made in its time at a session of the State Duma Defense Committee: to place the Border Troops under Defense Ministry command. This idea shocked even the most original analysts at the General Staff and the military department. Pavel Sergeyevich motivated it by saying that it would help cut the costs of maintaining the Armed Forces, but military experts calculated that the situation was just the opposite. With this approach the size of the army will grow appreciably, and spending on it will therefore increase. At the same time, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff, who addressed closed parliamentary hearings, proposed quite a different option: cede part of the Navy to the Border Troops (the Army is in no position to maintain the Navy's combat readiness owing to its meager budget). But this is not a panacea either, since government defense spending in this event would not be any less.

One specialist from the military department admitted in a confidential conversation that all these "strange" statements by Grachev are caused primarily by internal disagreements between him and the General Staff chief on ways of leading the army out of its deep financial crisis. Another "underwater reef" is the emerging confrontation between Col. Gen. Andrey Nikolayev, commander of the Border Troops, who is "scoring points" in the eyes of the president and the Security Council; and the defense minister, who is rather jealous of this. The atmosphere is aggravated by increasing rumors circulating in the Defense Ministry about Nikolayev's possible appointment to the post of defense minister and Grachev's assignment as Russia's military representative to NATO. Some General Staff strategists predict that with the current military-political situation in Russia and the near abroad, the focus of ensuring the Russian Federation national security and strategic interests is increasingly shifting toward state borders, and in the future it is not ruled that the Russian army will be more reminiscent of a border army—and therefore the incumbent Border Troops commander will have real chances for occupying the minister's chair. One cannot overlook yet another important detail: In its time the families of the former first secretary of the Moscow City [Communist) Party Committee, Yeltsin; and of the former first deputy chief of the USSR General Staff, Lieutenant General Nikolayev, lived on the same floor.

Chapter Two: Reformist

Amid high secrecy, a military-scientific conference was held at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry which discussed the results of the first stage of reform in the Armed Forces and ways of further force development. According to some conference participants, the shroud of mystery was "erected" by the Defense Ministry leadership for three reasons: Pavel Grachev's fear that the deplorable information about the true state of the forces will enter the public domain (after all, the president has given a very flattering assessment: "the best defense minister in the past few decades"). Second, the inevitable sharp criticism by the top brass of government and parliament miscalculations could "filter through" to the top. And third, the mass media which would have inevitably subjected the country's military leadership to criticism for shortfalls in military reform.

Meanwhile the actual situation is as follows: The troops are manned by 45 to 50 percent; troops material provision has been cut by nearly 60 percent, as a result of which approximately 70 percent of games and maneuvers had to be scrapped; combat flying practice has been reduced sharply: from 100-120 hours to 30-35 hours a year; and only one to two divisions are deemed fully combat-ready in each military district, and one to two ships in each fleet.

On several occasions Pavel Sergeyevich complained that in 1992 nobody expected that military bases would have to be deployed outside Russia; that it would be necessary to create the Kaliningrad Defense District, reform the air defense system, and reinforce the role of military districts. At the same time, General Staff analysts warned the Defense Ministry precisely in 1992 that following the Baltic Fleet's withdrawal from many bases in the Baltics, two striking fists would need to be formed: in Kronshtadt and Baltiysk. The question of reinforcing the North Caucasus Military District owing to an increased threat to Russia in the southern strategic sector was also raised. This was not taken into account. Moreover, the

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Russian Federation Defense Ministry made a grave error in economic calculations: Plans were built on the premise that the economy will be growing and the Armed Forces financed substantially. As a result of these miscalculations, military reform was jeopardized right from the start.

At the conference itself, the defense minister and his close associates were developing further plans for military reform, having a mere 40.6 trillion rubles in their budget, which covers the defense needs by only one-third. At the same time, there are plans to finance from the ministry's budget Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia (one day of presence costs 2 billion rubles), in Tajikistan (one day of the 201st Division's presence costs 15 billion rubles), and provide financial support for activities as part of the NATO Partnership for Peace program (one day of joint games by a peacekeeping battalion is 1 billion rubles). At the same time, it needs to be taken into account that the planned downsizing of the officer corps by 200,000 will mean that each one of them is paid 20 [monthly] salaries (for a colonel, 11-12 million rubles; for a major, 8-9 million; and for a captain, 6-7 million).

The proposal by the supreme commander (also known as the president) to meet the "shortage" at the expense of extra-budgetary revenues (for instance, the sale of Russian MiG-29 fighters to Malaysia—$550-600 million) is unrealistic. First, nearly 70 percent of the proceeds are to be returned to the defense industry, which has been on a "starvation diet;" and second, under the contract, Malaysia is going to effect approximately 15-20 percent of the payment with deliveries of palm oil to Russia.

In spite of all this, the Defense Ministry is planning to launch a new, economically unsubstantiated, reform in the Armed Forces. The idee fixe now is to disband the Air Defense Forces as a separate arm and transfer its elements to military districts and fleets. This will allegedly ease the state military burden: This is how people in the Defense Ministry explain their reformist itch. The way to treat it is not to scratch it, and then it will go away.

Equipment Deliveries Continue to Iran

LD1112214294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia does not intend to cut down military deliveries to Iran in the near future. This statement was made to INTERFAX by a high-ranking official of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the diplomat, the contracts to deliver arms to Tehran will be in force for several more years. At the same time, he noted especially that in military and technological cooperation with Iran, Russia steadfastly observed the directing principles for delivering conventional weapons. He reminded that this document had been developed by the permanent members of the UN Security Council and signed in London two years ago.

Sergeyev on Missile Troops' 'Reputation'

LD0912203994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1858 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The strategic missile troops count to three fourth of the Russian combat nuclear might and have the smallest strength in the armed forces, Commander- in-Chief of the Strategic Missile Troops Colonel-General Igor Sergeyev told troopers, scientists and producers at a conference on development of the strategic missile troops in the new geo-political situation.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about budget spending on the troops, the commander noted that they are "the cheapest". The troops consume only five per cent of the military budget while being able to solve all strategic tasks in a combat situation. "Our missile complexes both stationary and mobile exceed foreign analogues on their parameters of combat use and viability," said Sergeyev.

"High professional skills and responsibility enable fulfilment of combat tasks within a short period. This year's training proved good target hitting, and our telemetric information passed over to the U.S. strategic nuclear forces on the agreement basis confirmed the reputation of Russian missile troopers," said the commander.

Team Investigates Nuclear Submarine Crash Site

LD1112151994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Murmansk December 11 TASS—Russia is all set to dispatch yet another expedition to the Norwegian Sea to examine the radioactive contamination caused by the ill-fated nuclear submarine Komsomolets that sank there in 1989.

The expedition will set off in the first half of December. Its members will take samples of sea water on the scene of the accident and in many other places where underwater currents might have brought radioactive elements from the submarine's nuclear plant and nuclear torpedoes. The expedition will examine a large area stretching from the Medvezhy Island in the Norwegian Sea to the Faeroe Islands and to Iceland.

The submarine sank on April 7, 1989 at a depth of 1,700 meters in the Norwegian Sea 180 kilometers southeast of the Medvezhy Island. Out of 69 crew members 42 died. There are two nuclear and 20 non- nuclear torpedoes aboard the craft. It is the fifth submarine to sink in recent memory. Two U.S. submarines sank in the 1960's and 1970's.

The first expedition to the scene of the accident was organised by the Rubin Maritime Design Bureau in 1991. Its members and members of the subsequent

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expeditions came to the conclusion that the nuclear and conventional weapons and the nuclear plant "will neither pose a nuclear threat and nor explode for as long as the submarine lays on the sea-bed." However, measurers have been taken to seal off the craft to prevent radioactive leaks.

Naval Ships Leave

LD1012174694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 10 Dec 94

Russian research naval ships are leaving on Saturday for a new expedition to the area where the Soviet nuclear submarine Komsomolets sank several years ago.

The vessels, belonging to the Northern Fleet, are fitted with precision equipment to measure the degree of radioactive contamination of the water and bottom rock in the region as a result of the disintegration of the submarine's reactors and ammunition.

'Enormous' Uranium Reserves To Last Until 2040

LD1012150494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has amassed enormous uranium reserves its nuclear power plants will be able to use till 2040 or 2050, Russia's First Deputy Minister of Nuclear-Power Engineering Lev Ryabov told Interfax in an exclusive interview.

As he said, even though the uranium deposit in Chita Region—the only one developed in Russia—has virtually been exhausted, the country's nuclear-power plants will have enough nuclear fuel for several decades. In this connection the Atomic Energy Ministry has granted the big chemical plant in the city of Krasnokamensk (Chita Region) the right to sell uranium ore.

"Nevertheless we believe that Russia needs to step up the search for new uranium deposits to secure enough uranium for its nuclear- power stations in the second half of next century," Ryabov said.

According to geologists, he said, big uranium deposits lie in the Aldan Uplands (Yakutia), in Karelia and in the Ural Mountains. However uranium prospecting there was not concluded. As Ryabov said, because of insufficient funding the uranium prospecting, which usually takes from 10 to 15 years, has been virtually stopped.

Russian nuclear energy experts believe that the problem can be solved by the use of uranium-235 and plutonium obtained as a result of scrapping nuclear warheads, Ryabov pointed out. Currently his ministry's research centers are scrutinizing the possibility of using weapons-grade nuclear materials as fuel for light-water and prompt-neutrons reactors.

"A number of countries, such as Canada, displayed interest in such research," Ryabov said. According to him, in the future Russia may be able to export uranium and plutonium fuel.

Federal Assembly

Duma Overrules President's Veto on Income Tax Law

LD0912142794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The State Duma has overruled by a two-third majority vote a veto imposed by the Russian president on the law "On addenda and amendments to the Russian law on income tax levied on natural entities." A total of 326 lawmakers have voted in support of the this law earlier adopted by the lower house of the Russian parliament.

Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the Duma Committee for Budget, Taxation, Banks and Finances, pointed out that "A possibility had been found to meet all constructive proposals made by the Russian president concerning this law."

One of the critical remarks made by the president was in the line of editing, and another one concerned an article of the law on taxes levied on people affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The law confirms the rules of taxation which existed earlier that this category of citizens are fully exempt from taxes, the lawmaker said.

The document envisages that a minimum 12 per cent income tax is levied on natural entities whose annual income does not exceed 10 million roubles.

Duma Asks Yeltsin To Delay Decree on Privatization

LD0912193594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian parliament's lower house, the State Duma, has recommended that President Boris Yeltsin suspend his decree to launch the second part of the privatization program pending a law on privatization.

The Duma included the recommendation, proposed by Yuriy Sokolov from the house Agrarian group, in a resolution On the Results of the First Stage of the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises, passed on Friday by a vote of 241, the passing minimum being 226 votes.

The resolution, drawn up by the Duma's Committee on Property, Privatization and Economics and the New Regional Policy group of deputies, qualifies the first part of the program, where privatization was carried out by means of special checks issued to the population, as unsatisfactory. The document calls for "serious amendments to the privatization policy, since the results of its first stage do not meet the principal objectives of the socio-economic reforms."

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As for the second part of the program, to be based on normal sale and purchase, the Duma insists on changes in it and suggests entrusting work on them to a joint group of government and Duma members. The house wants to receive the results of the work for approval before December 20.

The Duma turned down the Communists' motion for dismissing First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubays from the government. The proposal received only 196 votes from the necessary minimum of 226.

Duma Rejects Debate on Agreement To Establish CIS

LD0912215394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the State Duma once again refused to debate the question of the 1991 Belovezhskaya Pushcha [area where Yeltsin, Kravchuk, and Shushkevich met in late 1991] agreement on the establishment of the CIS, signed by the presidents of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. The question of Russia's abrogation of the treaty on the formation of the USSR also failed to make the agenda.

Duma Urges Yeltsin To Consider Kaliningrad Situation

LD0912213694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1937 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The Duma has urged the Russian president to consider the situation in the Russian Kaliningrad region in the immediate future in a resolution "on the Kaliningrad region" adopted by the State Duma today.

The resolution also recommends the Russian government to consider a possibility of concluding an agreement with the Kaliningrad executive bodies on redivision of powers in order to consolidate the Russian sovereignty in the region.

The government is also recommended to view the Kaliningrad region as an area needing financial support and compensation of additional spending in finalizing the draft 1995 budget. The Duma committee for budget, taxes, banks, and finances is instructed to control the introduction of corresponding amendments to the draft federal budget.

The Duma said it is alarmed with the complicated social, economic and political situation in the Kaliningrad region and activities of destructive forces in the adjoining states which result in complicated relations between the Russian Federation and the aforesaid nations.

Edict on State of Emergency in N. Ossetia Endorsed

LD0912142994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Liliya Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The Federation Council on Friday endorsed the Russian president's decree of December 2, 1994 "On the introduction of the state of emergency in part of territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Republic of Ingushetia". It was decided to set up a special permanent commission of the Federation Council for control over the situation in both republics, which is particularly important, said Petr Premyak, deputy chairman of the Federation Council's committee on security and defence.

Premyak also noted that this conflict, just as the Chechen situation, is prompted by political interests. Deplorably, none of the powers involved wants to admit honestly who is behind all this, Premyak said.

Ingush President Ruslan Aushev expressed satisfaction with the Federation Council decision. He said, however, he has no confidence that the decree will be enforced.

Duma Deputy Comments

LD1012145894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the Chechen crisis has dragged on, the Russian president's decree enables the power ministries to set into motion within the bounds of the constitution, considering that Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation, "prompt planned and other means," Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, a deputy chairman of the State Duma from the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] faction, declared in an interview with Interfax Saturday [10 December].

However, Yeltsin's decree, in his opinion, is not an unequivocal instruction to start fighting. Vengerovskiy emphasized that he "always supported firmness in Yeltsin's decisions, but his first decree to disarm within 48 hours the people who "go to sleep and get up with arms" was not clear to him.

Now, he believes, Chechnya should confirm that her presence within Russia is unshakeable and it is ready to hold elections to the State Duma and the Federation Council. Then, Vengerovskiy is convinced, the possibility and need of planned presidential elections in Chechnya be reiterated. Simultaneously, the commission coordinating the law-making activity of the branches of power should get down to bringing the legislations of Chechnya and Russia into conformity.

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Small Moscow Rally on Chechnya; Officials in Recess

LD1112153094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1347 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have just had a phone call to the studio from my colleague Vladimir Paysko who is at the temporary information center on the state of emergency in Chechnya. Let's hear what he has to say. Good afternoon.

[Paysko] Good afternoon. You know there's hardly any news here at all. The last report we had came in at 1230 GMT. [passage omitted] During a break today, I went out into Pushkin Square to have a look at what was going on there in connection with the calls made on radio for people to come to a rally there. There really is a protest rally against the deployment of Russian armed forces in Chechnya underway on the Square, which is near the temporary information center. The slogans of those who turned out differ widely; at times they contradict each other entirely. They range from, for example: We couldn't give a rat's ass [khren] about Chechnya. In crushing one people, we destroy ourselves. I could see only one banner which clearly belonged to the monarchists. It went: Rise and break down the prison state.

Well that may be. Those in attendance are only united on one thing: hostility toward the president and the government, that is to say, the current authorities, with the demand that they resign.

I spoke to some Caucasians, Chechens, and Ingushi, as it turned out. They weren't taking part in the rally. They were standing a short way off and only looking on. When asked what they thought about the events, they said the following: Moscow is to blame for everything. Moscow put Dudayev—a complete unknown in Chechnya—in power. And then, when Dudayev didn't please them anymore, Moscow started pushing Avturkhanov, also a complete unknown in Chechnya. The events in Moscow are the result of Moscow's political intrigues. Incidentally, Russians standing nearby thought the same. One woman said: They stirred it up and now they're sending our children under fire.

There are not many people at the Pushkin monument. According to a militiaman, there are no more than 100. But in spite of their small number, I believe that these people are voicing the opinion of a part of society. These people are part of the politically active population. As for those whose job it is to be politically active—I mean the deputies we voted into the Duma or the Federal Council—then there's not much sign of activity from them.

Before the rally actually started I visited the Federal Assembly. The building was shut. There was no light on inside. I knocked on the door. A militiaman came out and looked at me as if I was an idiot and said: It's the senators' day off today.

Yushenkov on Possible Impeachment of Yeltsin Over Chechnya

LD0912172594 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, too, 13 State Duma deputies called on President Yeltsin to appear on television and to explain his stance on resolving the Chechen crisis. It is stressed that in the event of troops being introduced into Chechnya all responsibility for bloodshed will rest personally with the head of state.

Chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee Sergey Yushenkov believes moreover that the introduction of troops could end up with President Yeltsin being impeached:

[Begin Yushenkov recording] If suddenly the president takes the decision to resolve the problem of relations with the Chechen Republic by strong-arm methods, I think that a certain part of the corps of deputies will start the impeachment procedure against the president. And at the first stage, as is laid down in the Constitution, a special State Duma commission will be set up for levelling the accusation against the president that he is kindling interethnic dissension, organizing and provoking mass murders of Russian citizens in connection with the so called restoration of constitutional order in the Chechen Republic.

I assume that it is still not too late to stop and think and to take a decision which is really in line with the spirit of relations between peoples and to do everything possible in order to prevent a bloody outcome of events. [end recording]

However, State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin believes that "it is not humane to tie the president hand and foot in the face of an armed criminal." Rybkin believes that all methods could be used to resolve the conflict in Chechnya.

Federation Council Adopt Draft Law on Prosecutor General

LD0912193194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federation Council intends to appoint the acting Russian Prosecutor General independently.

The Federation Council adopted a draft law amending the law on the Russian Prosecutor General's Office today as a legislative initiative. In accordance with the draft law, "if a nominee proposed by the president for the post of the Prosecutor General fails to receive the required number of votes the president will introduce a new candidate to the Federation Council within 30 days."

The draft law stipulates that if the president's nominee is rejected and the post of the Russian Prosecutor General

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is vacant the Federation Council will appoint the acting Prosecutor General out of the deputies of the Prosecutor General.

The draft law says that the Prosecutor General is accountable to the Federation Council. The draft also defines the procedure for appointing the deputies of the Prosecutor General. They will be appointed by the Federation Council on the proposal of the Prosecutor General.

The Federation Council will transfer the draft law to the State Duma. If the draft law is approved by the State Duma it will be returned to the Federation Council for approval.

State Bodies' Work on Settling Chechen Issue Unsatisfactory

LD0912220694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian State Duma believes that the "work of the federal bodies of state power for the political settlement of the explosive situation in the Chechen Republic is very unsatisfactory" and proposes that the president "makes a statement rejecting the use of military force on the territory of Chechnya and enter talks with the Chechen authorities who virtually control the situation in the Republic." This is evident from the draft Duma resolution which was prepared for the evening Duma session on Friday [9 December].

The deputies also recommended that the president form a parliamentary commission for talks which would involve deputies of the two houses of the Russian parliament.

They propose that the president "use measures and means of political and legal character to discontinue the armed confrontation in the Chechen Republic, prevent the infiltration of illegal armed detachments and firearms on the territory of the republic and outside it, restore legality and provide for the rights and freedoms of its citizens and render to the republic's population necessary humanitarian and economic aid."

The draft resolution says the deputies should consider the president's proposal and pass a resolution on amnesty to those who were not involved in committing heavy crimes against the civilian population and who voluntarily surrendered arms before December 15. The draft resolution says that "it is necessary to proceed from the fact that the Chechen Republic is an inalienable part of the Russian Federation in which the Constitution of the Russian Federation should be valid in full measure."

The document proposes to appeal to the warring sides in Chechnya "to discontinue the fratricidal bloodshed and solve the problems peacefully, including the holding of free elections to the high bodies of state power in the Chechen Republic, elections to the Federation Council and the Russian Duma on the territory of the republic."

The deputies recommended that leaders of the republics, territories and regions of the North Caucuses "show state wisdom and restraint in solving the problems associated with the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic."

The draft resolution proposes to entrust Duma committees for legal matters and security to "advance proposals on amendments to the Russian Constitution on parliamentary control over the activities of the federal bodies of executive power."

"To study the mechanism of adoption of military-political decisions and the causes for the non-compliance with the decisions by the president and the Federal Assembly", the draft resolution envisages the formation of a Duma commission involving representatives of the factions and deputy groups.

Duma Defense Chairman on Responsibility for Chechen Assault

LD0912223294

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1840 GMT on 9 December broadcasts its "Person of the Week" program featuring Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee. He speaks about his early interest in politics, his background, and Russian policy in Chechnya in particular.

Yushenkov speaks about Russia's nationalities policy. He says: "There is a policy, but it is disastrous for the country." Asked about the principles of the nationalities policy, he says: "They are very simple. Take the Caucasus, for example. We are trying to establish our power in the region using other people, stirring up civil war, and supporting warring forces and groupings with arms and ammunition and even personnel."

To a question regarding who was responsible for a military operation in Chechnya, Yushenkov says: "Our parliamentary group gave the names of these people in a statement. They include [Oleg] Lobov, secretary of the Security Council; Nikolay Yegorov, who is in charge of—I don't know what his post is called exactly—nationalities and regional affairs. Unlike other countries, where a person would have certainly resigned, he has been promoted instead, so I have heard, so that he can continue his idiotic experiments on a larger scale. The Chechen problem is not the only problem of the North Caucasus. Dzhokhar Dudayev today is not simply the Chechen leader. He is already the leader of the North Caucasus, if you wish. Therefore the person confronting Dzhokhar Dudayev needs to be promoted to an appropriate rank."

Yushenkov is asked: "What is the president's share of responsibility in all this?" He replies: "The president himself has a very large share of responsibility. Unfortunately our power is structured in such a way that the president is not subordinated to any political force."

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Committees View U.S. National Security Concept

MK1012130194 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Conclusion by State Duma International Affairs, Defense, Geopolitics, and Security Committees on the U.S. President's Message to Congress, 'The U.S. National Security Strategy,' in the "Document" column: "Four Duma Committees Assess the U.S. National Security Strategy as Imperial, But Not as Yet Anti—Russian;" incorporating commentary by Viktor Ustinov, chairman of the State Duma Geopolitics Committee and one author of the Conclusion—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 26 October NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA published the Russian translation of the U.S. President's annual message to Congress, "National Security Strategy of the United States of America." This document attracted the attention of the Russian Federation State Duma, and on its instruction four Duma committees drew up their Conclusion on this message. The text of this Conclusion is published below.

The U.S. President's message to Congress has highlighted a rather dangerous trend on the part of the United States toward disrupting the balance of forces in the world, and its aspiration to use force wherever America deems it necessary.

At issue, therefore, is the disturbance of the balance of strategic forces. When the balance of forces is maintained, peace is secure.

Both the individual security of each state and international security consists not in the aspiration toward domination, accompanied by protestations of good intentions, safeguarding of peace, democracy and justice, but in the equilibrium of forces. If the force of one state or group of states is not balanced by the force of another state or group of states, the entire system between states is disorganized, and moves toward chaos, conflicts, and wars. This is the main lesson of the past and contemporary history.

The national security strategy presented in Clinton's message to the U.S. Congress is a triumphant report by Washington that the "Cold War" has ended in its favor, and the threat of communist expansion has been eliminated. An approach based on the United States' "exclusive" role in today's world preconditions the concrete tasks and directions of activity by the U.S. Administration in the sphere of foreign and domestic policy for the near future.

The strategy is based on confidence that U.S. superiority has been achieved, and at the same time on a fear of new threats.

The message makes virtually no mention of Russia's status; it can be visualized, as it were, beyond the formulations defining the place and role of the United States in the present-day world (for instance: "Our country has an unmatched military capability," and "The United States is the only state capable of conducting large-scale successful operations far from its borders"). The relation to Moscow is directly linked to the following condition: "If Washington can help consolidate democratic transformations and pursuit of market reform in Russia, it can thus transfer the former threat to the sphere of diplomatic and economic partnership." Therefore, the uncertainty of this transitional period is not being called into question; moreover, it is taken into account in defining the extent of U.S. combat readiness.

The "U.S. National Security Strategy" should be regarded as the reflection of the U.S. aspiration to consider itself the only world leader. It actually presupposes the United States' right to use force without UN sanction, impose a system of sociopolitical organization on other countries, and declare individual internal problems of other states (for instance, the size of their population) to be threatening U.S. security. This document presents substantial interest also from the point of view of borrowing some of its elements for updating the Russian national security concept, and subjecting others to a profound analysis and interpretation with the aim to adjust Russia's own strategic line.

Certain elements of the U.S. national security strategy could be used to improve the Russian military-strategic doctrine, imparting to it a more generalized character, oriented not only toward military security problems. This involves the problem of economic development of the country as a whole; ecological problems; opening foreign markets to Russian goods, and making them more competitive; ensuring energy security; combating drug abuse and terrorism; the refugee problem; and the protection of Russian citizens living abroad. It would also be advisable to reflect the problems of Russian military presence abroad, including participation in peacekeeping operations (apparently, in most cases, conditional on retaining command of these peacekeeping forces), and the sale of Russian arms abroad.

It is quite evident that the growth of population in some countries, accompanied by its relative impoverishment, can lead to internal state or even regional instability and pose a certain measure of threat to Russia's security. Population control, however, undoubtedly comes under internal state jurisdiction, and these matters should be reflected in the Russian national security concept only from the point of view of rendering assistance to such states, should they express such a wish, in addressing demographic or social problems. Other forms, which can be interpreted as an attempt, direct or indirect, in the internal affairs of these states, are impermissible.

The "Strategy..." contains elements that go beyond the framework of formal international models of conduct in maintaining national and international security (the UN Charter, decisions by the United Nations and the UN

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Security Council, the CSCE Final Act). More specifically, these are the U.S. claims to a unilateral use of force in the event that its vital interests are affected; the intention to deliver strikes on terrorist bases abroad or installations in those states that support terrorist organizations and groups; and punitive action (along with counterterrorist action). It envisions the possibility of subjecting countries which would want to use mass destruction weapons to a military strike whose negative consequences would surpass the possible benefits of using mass destruction weapons. In all these instances "The Strategy..." talks, directly or indirectly, about actions contradicting the principle of the nonuse of force in international relations as well as international mechanisms of countering terrorism.

There is, however, reason to believe that the existence of such provisions in the U.S. security concept is not accidental and is far from being due only to the Americans' claims to their exclusivity. U.S. and West European experts in this sphere often argue that the use of power models in maintaining international order and security is the reflection of objectively existing, and effective, laws of social development, which posit that international law (as well as internal state law) is based on, and governed by, coercion, the threat of the use of force. Such an approach disagrees with the current understanding of the collective security concept, and presupposes the existence of a balance of forces at various levels, a redivision of spheres of influence, a test of force in the form of regional conflicts, and so forth.

If such regularities indeed exist objectively, then they should certainly be taken into account also in Russia's concepts for maintaining national and international security. In any event, it is impermissible to ignore another superpower's claiming the right to the unilateral use of force, let alone actually using force or threat of force in practice. It needs to be understood, of course, that the threat of force, let alone the use of force, can be only an extreme, forced measure, dictated by such a position of another country, which is a permanent UN Security Council member, and therefore also by the impossibility of protecting one's own interests through UN mechanisms.

It is significant in which form such force elements can be reflected in Russia's conceptual documents because they can formally be subjected to serious criticism from the point of view of international law. This can apparently be avoided by using formulations close to and even identical with the American ones. It would be expedient to use such a "symmetric" approach also in the event that Russia is forced to use such propositions in practice.

The U.S. President's message gives considerable attention to the nonproliferation of mass destruction weapons. The U.S. strategy boils down to the following: work toward infinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and giving it a universal character; concluding a treaty on a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapon tests; expanding the regime of missile technology control; ratification by all countries of the Convention on the Abolition of Chemical Weapons; and adoption of additional measures to ensure the implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons. Furthermore, the United States intends to undertake corresponding efforts with respect to a number of countries in order to prevent their emergence as nuclear states. If this proves impossible to prevent, it is proposed to pursue a policy of containment toward such countries. There is also a provision that a military strike can be delivered on these countries, whose negative consequences would surpass the possible gains from using mass destruction weapons.

"The Strategy," however, contains no forecast about the consequences which will be brought about, for instance, by the growth in the number of nuclear states. Such consequences could presumably include the proliferating danger of the use of nuclear weapons, and the declining possibilities for the superpowers both to intervene in regulating regional conflicts and use force or the threat of force. There can also be other consequences, such as the emergence of an international combat nuclear material and technology market, the rise in prices for certain raw materials (oil), a change in the UN role in maintaining international security, and others. For Russia it is apparently important that some states will under no circumstances join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. These include Israel or India, an aspirant to the place of a permanent UN Security Council member and Russia's partner.

China, another such partner of Russia and its closest neighbor, so far holds a special position on the issue of stopping nuclear weapon tests. Quite a few countries have nuclear programs, and, if necessary, can fairly soon create their own nuclear weapons. In view of these circumstances and also the fact that Russia, unlike the United States, occupies a somewhat different military-political, economic, and geographic position in the world, its approach to the problem of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the recognition of new nuclear powers, and so forth, can to some extent differ from the United States,' giving more consideration to the objective reality of today and tomorrow.

On the whole, the U.S. President's message is a document "for internal use," calculated to produce an appropriate impact primarily on the U.S. Congress. Formulations of the National Security Strategy are therefore permeated with the utmost egoism and the cult of America's grandeur. They do not point to any wish to reckon with Russia's national ambitions or any intention to provide a proper assessment of the efforts by the United States' main partners: Great Britain, France, Germany, and also Japan.

Nor is there reason to talk about an anti-Russian orientation of Clinton's message. The content of this document should not be seen as cause for verbal confrontation, and therefore it should rather ensure that the

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provisions and conclusions of Russia's military doctrine are presented in full accord with the country's national interests, without the usual manner of looking over the shoulder at the reaction abroad—in this particular case at the White House and the U.S. State Department—to our tasks and lines of activity toward ensuring national security.

The above leads to the following conclusions: The contemporary security model is becoming more multidimensional and complex, compared to the previous period. Military, political, and economic factors are increasingly intertwined within it. The role of economic factors, manifesting itself in a sharpening of international competition, grows substantially;

The United States, in spite of its protestations, is incapable of ensuring international stability (and therefore its national security) only with its own forces and assets. The application of collective efforts by states is the dictate of the present-day political technology, without which a security strategy is simply inconceivable;

The United States is fairly interested in seeing Russia's "conduct" fit into the stratagems of Western political scientists and also seeing Russia's being contained within a certain framework in the margins of world politics and economy.

Conclusions

It appears advisable to recommend that the Russian Federation president:

1. Explore the possibility of developing a Russian national security concept covering as wide a range of matters as the U.S. National Security Concept.

2. Consider the question of including in the Russian national security concept (and also, evidently, in the foreign policy concept) provisions on a settlement by force of international problems threatening the state's security, as was done in the U.S. National Security Strategy, and study possible theoretical grounds for employing force models of upholding international order and security.

3. Specify Russia's strategic and tactical line with regard to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, including in the light of certain states' nonparticipation in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and consequences of the possible increase in the number of nuclear states.

4. Explore the possibility of making adjustments to the Russian national security concept on a regular basis either directly or by delivering regular reports of the Russian Federation president to the Federal Assembly that will in certain measure adjust, specify, or supplement some of its provisions.

In connection with significant changes in the international situation, the change of governments, and other developments, the necessary amendments should be made to the concepts not once a year, but as the need arises.

An author of this opinion, Viktor Ustinov, chairman of the State Duma Committee on Geopolitical Matters, commented on the U.S. President's message and the assessment of the message by the Russian Federation State Duma at NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's request:

It is clear from the opinion of the State Duma's four committees that the U.S. President's message to Congress was assessed as a capacious, multifaceted program document. The idea permeating the updated national security concept is as follows: the United States is above all; it does not have permanent friends, but permanent interests.

There are grounds to believe that the U.S. President's message to Congress has thrown light on a fairly dangerous trend toward upsetting the balance of forces in the world and the United States' desire to use force where America thinks fit.

State Duma committees are unanimous in saying that Bill Clinton's message should not be interpreted as an pretext for verbal (let alone any other) confrontation. The American side's revelations (which are evident) simply prod one to make sure that the atmosphere of mutual politeness and numerous assurances of partnership and benevolence at all levels of Russian-American relations does not relegate to the back burner the task of developing a strictly logical doctrine of Russian national security that will be fully in conformity with its interests as a world power.

The opinion by the State Duma committees, which contains conclusions presented to the Russian Federation president, is therefore a parliamentary signal of sorts sent to U.S. members of Congress.

Regional Affairs

ITAR-TASS Roundup on Situation in Chechnya

LD1012173794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—The Russian Government adopted a resolution on Saturday ordering the Interior and Defence Ministries to seal off the rebel republic of Chechnya by closing its administrative borders and airspace, the provisional information centre of the Russian Government said on Saturday [10 December].

The resolution is part of the efforts to carry out a presidential decree of December 9 on measures to stop the activities of illegal armed bands in the Chechen republic and in the zone of the Ossetian- Ingush conflict.

The resolution aims at "ensuring the state security and territorial integrity of Russia, enforcing law, individual

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rights and freedoms, disarming illegal armed groups on the territory of Chechnya and adjacent North Caucasian regions."

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed another resolution today authorising material and financial aid to the regions affected by the Chechen crisis and other ethnic conflicts in the North Caucasus.

Earlier today, Russian Vice-Premier Nikolay Yegorov, currently on a visit in Mozdok, North Ossetia, held a closed-door working meeting on the settlement of the situation in Chechnya. The meeting was attended by the heads of power ministries—Pavel Grachev, Viktor Yerin and Sergey Stepashin—as well as representatives of the Interior Ministry troops and commandos' deployed in three areas along the Chechen border. There were no reports about the decision adopted at the meeting.

The situation remained calm in Chechnya during the past 24 hours. No armed clashes were reported in the republic, Russia's provisional information centre said. It said that the supporters of Chechnya's independence rallied on Groznyy's freedom square.

Meanwhile, the Ingush government urged the Russian Ministry for Emergency situations to help about 4,000 refugees who have fled to Ingushetia from Chechnya. The flow of refugees from Chechnya has increased over the last few days, the provisional information centre said. Sergey Shoygu, minister for emergency situations, said that the government is considering this issue, adding that humanitarian aid may be sent to the area shortly.

Commenting on the situation in Chechnya, the leadership of the Russian prosecutor's office said that "the legal uncertainty and armed confrontation in Chechnya prevent the public prosecutor's office from responding to violations of law and order in that republic."

"Events in the Chechen republic, which is an inalienable part of the Russian Federation, show that the constitutional principles of Russia's statehood and national security are being violated there, blood is being shed and human rights and the rights of the individual are being infringed upon," the public prosecutor's office said.

It stressed that "many problems could have been solved by legal means. However it is impossible to engage law enforcement levers because federal bodies of power has failed to determine which side is legitimate. In addition, the public prosecutor's office cannot carry out its duty in the republic, where fighting is taking place."

Meanwhile, preparations are underway in the North Ossetian capital for talks on the settlement of the Chechen conflict due to be held on December 12. Members of the working commission of the Russian Government, representatives of the Chechen authorities and the Chechen opposition are expected to take part in them. The talks with the Chechen official delegation are expected to focus on ways to stop the fratricidal war, confiscate weapons and stabilise the situation in the republic. The talks with the Chechen opposition will be devoted exclusively to the disarmament of the warring sides in Chechnya.

Dudayev Says Situation 'Out of My Control'

MM0912155494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 4

[Telephone interview with Dzhokhar Dudayev in Groznyy on 8 December, conducted by Aleksey Portanskiy, published "practically verbatim": "Dzhokhar Dudayev: Settlement of Conflict Is Possible If Aggression Is Stopped"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] When we contacted Dzhokhar Dudayev by telephone at noon on 8 December, a couple of military aircraft, he told us, were circling over Groznyy. From the morning of that day he had given the order not to shoot down or open fire on Russian aircraft, although, he added, they fly every day. We print the conversation that took place practically verbatim.

[Portanskiy] Dzhokhar Musayevich, the Russian representatives who visited you the other day admitted that Moscow does not have the correct impression of the situation in Chechnya. How would you describe it?

[Dudayev] It is the situation that follows armed aggression. More than 150 armored vehicles entered Groznyy, including 67 tanks, and about 5,000 servicemen or mercenaries. Assault aircraft were used. As a result of the strike, whole districts were devastated and about 1,000 civilians were killed.

The international community regards what happened as military aggression with the use of the most sophisticated weapons against the civilian population.

[Portanskiy] What, and whom, are you referring to specifically when you say the international community?

[Dudayev] There are representatives of 72 countries here, as well as the United States, the Organization of Nations and Peoples not represented in the United Nations, human rights organizations, the International Red Cross, and others. These representatives not only spoke of aggression, but sent findings to that effect to their governments and international bodies.

[Portanskiy] How has the conflict affected the population's mood and what part is the Islamic factor playing in present conditions?

[Dudayev] I am afraid to admit to you that the situation is now out of my control. In every village and every rayon, Islamic battalions have formed independently. Islamists have poured into them from all the corners of the earth—instructors and fighters. And when our chief of staff instructs them to take up a defensive position on this or that sector, they reply: "We are God's soldiers now, not yours. We will exact vengeance and go further, and you and your democracy can go play with Russia."

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[Portanskiy] What is the composition of these detachments—are they purely foreign, or mixed?

[Dudayev] There are separate detachments and mixed detachments. They are now going off to the bases, undergoing training, and arming themselves. Fighters are arriving from various countries, but mainly they are those who experienced Afghanistan. On 26 November eight martyrs threw themselves under tanks, some of them were foreigners, they were setting an example. They were all blown up. We are now identifying those who were killed and we know now that the majority were of Chechen origin.

[Portanskiy] Will it be possible to disband these formations in the event that the crisis is overcome?

[Dudayev] That will depend on guarantees of security against possible future aggression. Then it will be possible to conduct active work. But these detachments, incidentally, are no longer on our territory—they have dispersed throughout the Caucasus and close to the borders with Russia.

[Portanskiy] What did you and Pavel Grachev agree on?

[Dudayev] Grachev and I can only tackle military questions, not political ones. The problem is that those who got us into this mess handed over the political resolution of the conflict to the military men, so as to disclaim responsibility and later hold the military to account. That could lead to grave consequences, because they will encourage the military—go on, resolve it by means of arms. And then war lies in store. Therefore Grachev and I reached a consensus that it is necessary to distinguish between the political and military solutions. That was the main topic of our conversation.

[Portanskiy] Dzhokhar Musayevich, are you personally ready for talks?

[Dudayev] I am always ready for talks. Anywhere and at any level. We have been ready for a long time, we have formed appropriate teams and groups on economic questions, military, political questions. At any moment we can pick up our documents and sit at the conference table. And Moscow knows it.

[Portanskiy] If, for instance, President Yeltsin appointed a representative, are you ready to meet with him?

[Dudayev] It depends who the representative is. Why should I meet with anyone who comes here? I am not the only one who decides the people's fate here. We have people who are ready to meet with a representative at one level or another.

[Portanskiy] In order to facilitate talks, are you ready to renounce a number of state prerogatives for Moscow's benefit?

[Dudayev] I do not intend to do anything for Moscow's benefit, I intend to act for the benefit of the common cause—for the benefit of the Russian people and their state. In Moscow they always have the appetites of sharks. From the outset we set forth our proposals to the Russian side: joint defense, joint economy, a common monetary and energy area. A joint energy sphere, for instance, already exists. But any radical proposals of ours meet with a provocative attitude there: They're making concessions here, they say to themselves, so that means we can press for more. The people realize this, and now they are saying to me: no talks.

[Portanskiy] You mean that because of these factors your position regarding talks has deteriorated?

[Dudayev] Yes, it has deteriorated considerably. The people are now inclined toward total independence, they are ready to fight, because they see they can expect nothing from that quarter except more aggression.

[Portanskiy] Does support for the oppositionists—Avturkhanov and others—exist, in your opinion, among the people?

[Dudayev] Support for Avturkhanov is at his side—the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service], it supports him and protects him. But he never had any support here. And now he is not likely to, for the next 100 years.

[Portanskiy] You have your own version of what happened to Dmitriy Kholodov. Could you tell us about it in more detail?

[Dudayev] I can say authoritatively: Dmitriy Kholodov took away from here extensive and objective material based on his observations. He was the only Russian journalist to stay on at the personal request of Information and Press Minister Udugov, and he was here from the beginning to the end of the events. Literally a few days after his departure, he was killed. He went to the lair of the so-called opposition forces. He did not take sides, he collected objective material and drew the corresponding conclusions. He had materials on Krylov (FCS staffer—IZVESTIYA editor's note), who was arrested here; he had in his possession materials from Krylov's interrogation, including a video cassette. He also had information in his possession on weapons deliveries here—where the weapons came from and who was in charge. He had exhaustive material on the FCS staffers who were operating here. So I believe the FCS took him out.

[Portanskiy] How should your version of the story be assessed?

[Dudayev] It is 100 percent accurate. It is not the Defense Ministry at all that is to blame for the journalist's death, everything was turned upside down later—the defense minister is supposedly responsible, but Grachev, in my view, has no idea what the FCS is up to. All this was done by the FCS people in order to divert suspicion.

[Portanskiy] How do you see the start of a settlement? Is it possible, at the first stage of a settlement, not to put the question of Chechnya's status on the agenda, but to postpone it?

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[Dudayev] Yes, I think the question could be resolved in stages. But at the first stage it is necessary to stop the aggression and sit at the conference table.

Terms of Settlement Talks Announced

LD0912142494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 9 TASS—The negotiations on the settlement in the Chechen Republic, to open in Vladikavkaz on December 12, 1994, will be conducted by representatives of the Russian Government's working commission with each of the opposing sides, not between the sides directly, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, chairman of the working commission, told to the Provisional Information Centre at the Russian Government on Friday.

He said the participants in the talks will discuss ending the bloodshed, disarmament of illegal units and the working out of optimum ways for the restoration of the economy of the Chechen Republic.

Mikhailov said that minister of justice of the Dudayev cabinet, procurator-general of Chechnya Usman Imayev, in a telephone conversation with him, confirmed that the delegation of the Groznyy authorities headed by Taimaz Abubokarov will participate in the talks.

Caucasian Congress To Study Regional Crisis

LD0912225594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1902 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A congress of Caucasian peoples scheduled to open in Nalchik on December 11 will focus on the political situation in the region following the aggravation of the situation in Chechnya.

Caucasian Peoples' Confederation Chairman, Musa Shanibov, told Interfax Friday that a total of 16 delegations, including those from Adygea, Abkhazia, Ingushetia, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Dagestan and Chechnya, were expected to attend the forum. Representatives of Russian Cossacks residing in the south of Russia had also been invited.

The congress is expected to legalize a resolution of the December 4 special session of the confederation's parliament "resolutely protesting against Russia's military intervention in the Chechen conflict and approving the line of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev."

The same resolution stipulated that the confederation would help Chechnya, if large-scale combat operations began in Chechnya, as it helped Abkhazia during the Georgian-Abkhaz armed conflict. Outposts will be installed in the republic to give comprehensive help to Chechnya, including humanitarian aid.

According to Shanibov, the confederation sought a political solution to the Chechen issue. He pointed out that documents issued by the confederation were much more restrained than the statements of many Russian politicians. "However, no one should harbor doubts that unleashing large-scale combat operations in Chechnya will trigger off a new Caucasian war," he stated.

North Ossetia Slams Russian 'Muscle-Flexing'

LD0912210194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1827 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz December 9 TASS—A parliamentary committee of the Russian Republic of North Ossetia denounced the Moscow muscle-flexing policy regarding the rebel Republic of Chechnya and protested against using the territory of North Ossetia for amassing troops for quelling the neighbouring republic.

"Irresponsible politicians and adventurists with shevrons of generals intend to settle the complicated situation in Chechnya by power methods without using civilised means and dialogue for the purpose. Such a strategy is doomed to failure," the Committee for Nationalities Policy and Foreign Relations said in an address to the people on Friday without naming anyone in the Russian leadership concretely.

"The way from North Ossetia to Chechnya can be open only for peace-keeping forces", the document says referring to Russian troops which are being concentrated in the North Ossetian city of Mozdok close to the Chechen border.

The committee said its statement was supported by local political parties and public movements, religious leaders, as well as by creative and scientific intelligentsia.

North Ossetia is itself in a long-standing ethnic and territorial conflict with neighbouring Ingushetia and the bloodshed there was stopped by Russian peace-keeping troops and a state of emergency.

On Friday the Russian president ordered the government to restore order in Chechnya and in the zone of North-Ossetian-Ingushi conflict by all availbale means.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev immediately left for the area after that.

In the meantime an emotional rally in support of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is going on in the centre of the Chechen capital of Groznyy. TASS correspondent there said it criticises mostly Russia rather than the Chechen opposition. Emotions flared up when another Russian combat plane flew over Groznyy at a low altitude. Some of the speakers criticise Dudayev for releasing Russian prisoners who were seized during an abortive attack of the opposition on Groznyy in the end of November.

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Story of Troops' Refusal Questioned

MM0912151194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Boris Reznik: "Far East Internal Troops Officers Are Not Going to Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was already evening in Khabarovsk when the presenter of the Russian TV "Vesti" program announced, citing SEGODNYA, that a scandal was brewing in the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Internal Troops Eastern District. It is allegedly manning a subunit to be sent to Chechnya, but officers are refusing point-blank to go because "they do not want to be accountable for our rulers' bungling." As a result they are being discharged from the valiant Internal Troops....

Oleg Kryuchok cited as a victim Major Viktor Zaytsev, who faced the sword of Damocles of discharge from the service for his refusal to go to Chechnya.

Journalists working in the Far East were astounded at this report, because such an explosive sensation had passed them by. That night many people rushed to the leadership of the MVD Internal Troops Eastern District for details. Your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told by Internal Troops Lieutenant General Aleksandr Muratov, the district commander, that no officer has been sent to Chechnya from the Eastern District.

I visited District headquarters and asked them to get out the personal files of all officers with the surname Zaytsev. There were 30 of them. There is not a single Viktor among them; there is just one major, who is called Yevgeniy, and he has indeed been put up for discharge. Only by no means because he does not want to go to fight in Chechnya. Major Ye. Zaytsev was driving his private automobile 12 August this year while drunk and he knocked down and killed someone. He was recently sentenced to four years imprisonment and is in custody.

Government Issues Resolution on Chechnya

LD1012182394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1756 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—The Russian Government issued a resolution on Saturday [10 Dcember] to stabilise the social and political situation in the rebel Republic of Chechnya and to restore its devastated economy.

Under the resolution, "On urgent measures to restore and develop the economy and the social sphere of the Chechen Republic," a special fund will be set up to finance efforts to cope with the aftermath of the conflict.

The resolution envisions urgent supplies of food to Chechnya and measurers to restore agricultural production and other industries of the Chechen economy, provide job opportunities to the able-bodied population, improve health care, resume the operation of educational and cultural organisations, and solve the problem of refugees and displaced persons.

Earlier today, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin ordered material and financial aid to the regions affected by the Chechen crisis and other ethnic conflicts in the North Caucasus.

The measures will be accompanied by steps to ensure Russia's national security and territorial integrity.

The move also aims at implementing the Russian president's decree of December 9, 1994 ordering the government to take all measures to restore order in the breakaway Republic of Chechnya and in the neighbouring conflict-torn regions of North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Chechnya proclaimed independence from Russia in 1991, but the 1993 Russian constitution lists it among Russian republics.

Stepashin Says Security Council 'Unanimous'

LD1012131294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] director Sergey Stepashin stated in an INTERFAX interview that he has come to the Northern Caucasus to fulfil the Russia's Security Council decisions on establishing constitutional order on the territory of the Chechen Republic.

Sergey Stepashin stressed that there is no war between Chechnya and Russia, there is a problem of disarming bandit gangs on the territory of this North Caucasian republic. The FSK director said that all Security Council members are unanimous in this matter.

Dudayev Says Conflict Can Be 'Easily Settled'

LD1012235194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2322 GMT 10 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 11 Dec—"The Russian-Chechen conflict can be easily settled: one should just sit down at a negotiating table," Dzhokhar Dudayev has said in an exclusive interview with TASS.

At exactly midnight local time he received a correspondent in his house in one of the town's residential areas. Despite the fact that it was late, Dudayev assured the journalist that "he is ready to answer any questions frankly."

In Dudayev's words, he "has always been and is still in favor of political problems being resolved by peaceful means." However, he said, there are forces that clearly do not want negotiations between Russia and Chechnya to start on 12 December."

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The negotiations in question is the first working meeting on a settlement of the Chechen situation, which is to open in Vladikavkaz on 12 December.

Yegorov Holds Meeting With Opposition Leader

LD1012185494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1638 GMT 10 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy Rayon, Chechnya) 10 Dec—Chechnya's opposition Interim Council forces do not intend to attack Groznyy and are ready to support actions proposed by the leadership of Russia to stabilize the situation in Chechnya, Interim Council Chairman Umar Avturkhanov stated today after a meeting in Mozdok with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov. [passage omitted]

Having returned to Znamenskoye from Mozdok this evening, Avturkhanov convened a session of the Interim Council at which he reported the results of the meeting with Yegorov. The opposition's tactics in the situation that is evolving were also discussed at the meeting.

Yegorov Denies 'Rumors' of Rocket Attacks

LD1012181894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We are continuing to receive reports on the situation in and around the Republic of Chechnya.

According to information made available to the Interim Information Center by Nikolay Yegorov, special envoy of the Russian president in the North Caucasus, Russian power structures have not undertaken any active measures on 10 December on the territory of the Chechen Republic. Rumors spread about alleged rocket attacks and bombardments are unfounded and have clear signs of being a provocation, Yegorov pointed out. It is obviously to someone's advantage to destabilize the situation in Russia on the whole and in Moscow in particular. The fact that the capital is living a normal, measured life was confirmed by a representative of the Interim Informational Center and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He said that the situation in Moscow today was as calm as yesterday and that it will be the same tomorrow.

Chechen Officer Denies Reports of Air Strikes

LD1012215794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2135 GMT 10 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 11 TASS—"Russian military planes flew over Groznyy several times today, but they did not launch missiles or drop bombs on the city," a Chechen Army staff duty officer said on Saturday [10 December].

The officer, who asked not to be named, said that the Chechen troops opened fire on the planes, including from anti-aircraft guns, which local residents might have taken for air strikes.

On the whole the situation in Groznyy had not changed by 23:00 Saturday. Many streets, including central ones, are poorly lit. May residents have fled Groznyy to go to the countryside, fearing another offensive on the city.

At the same time, there have been no disruptions in water and energy supplies in the city. Only gas supplies have been rationed because of the lack of fuel for the Groznyy gas-distributing plant.

Earlier today, Russian Vice-Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov denied mass media reports that the Russian Army had allegedly delivered air strikes in Chechnya on Saturday.

"Rumours about alleged air strikes in Groznyy are a downright lie and bear a clear mark of a provocation," Yegorov said. "Evidently someone wants to destabilise the situation in Russia as a whole and in Moscow in particular," he added.

Vladikavkaz Prepares To Host Chechnya Talks

LD1012115994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 10 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz December 10 TASS—Preparations are under way in the North Ossetian capital for talks on the settlement of the conflict in the Chechen Republic, scheduled for December 12. Members of the working commission of the Russian Government, representatives of the Groznyy authorities and of the opposition are expected to take part in it.

It is believed here that problems dealing with the termination of the fratricidal war, the handing in of weapons and the stabilisation of the situation in the republic will be the subject of talks with the Groznyy authorities. Talks with the oppsotion will focus exclusively on the disarmament problem.

North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov is expected to open the talks. In connection with the forthcoming arrival of participants in the talks in Vladikavkaz, North Ossetian interior minister issued an order on tightening control at the main highways of the republic—the military-Georgian highway and the Transcaucasian highway. Security was also tightened at the Vladikavkaz airport, at railway terminals and villages, located in the areas bordering on Ingushetia and Chechnya.

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Opposition Leader Says Force 'Only Solution'

LD1012174294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 10 TASS—Chechen opposition provisional council leader Umar Avturkhanov said that the only solution to the Chechen crisis left is the use of force.

The provisional information centre of the Russian Government quoted its representative in the North Caucasus as saying on Saturday that Avturkhanov welcomed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree of December 9, 1994 on disbanding illegal armed bands in Chechnya and in the zone of the Ingush-Ossetian conflict.

Avturkhanov also said that "there is no split in the opposition ranks. We are ready to avenge those killed. We will take all measures to help disarm Dudayev and the opposition armed groupings."

Border Troops Council Issues Appeal

LD1012182794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1642 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Dec—The Main Military Council (MMC) [Glavnyy Voyenyy Sovet] of the Russian Federation Border Troops, which discussed the situation in the Chechen Republic, today, appealed to the men of Russia's border troops—in particular, of the Caucasus special border district [Kavkaziy osobyy pogranokrug]—to direct "all their efforts and all their ability and professional skill toward heightening their vigilance and stepping up guarding the state frontier."

The MMC appeal, received by ITAR-TASS from the Russian Federation Federal Border Service Information Agency, notes that the situation in Chechnya "is acquiring an extremely dangerous nature for stability and peace in our society and for the vitally important interests and national security of Russia."

"The Dudayev regime is striving to give the armed conflict an international character, to draw into it other Caucasian republics and third countries," the appeal by the MMC to the men of the Caucasus special border district says. "A situation is evolving," the document notes, "that presents a real threat to the security and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and to other states of the Commonwealth."

"The direct official mission of the men of the Caucasus special border district in the face of this threat is to defend reliably the sector being guarded, to resolutely thwart any attempts by armed groups to break through, to halt the transit of weapons and ammunition, and to stop any provocations," the appeal by the MMC of the Russian Federation Border Troops says.

Troops Begin Advance on Chechen Territory

LD1112090994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Dec—One of the three armed groups of Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs, which this morning began to move into the Chechen Republic from the direction of Mozdok, has passed Znamenskoye, Mikhail Shevtsov, the ITAR-TASS correspondent in this settlement, said. Znamenskoye is around 80 km from Groznyy. At 1100, 200 units of equipment were on the way to the populated area of Tolstoy Yurt. The column is accompanied from the air by a group of helicopters. There is a loudspeaker in the column which is constantly relaying an appeal to the peaceful population to lay down their weapons and not to give into provocation.

The second column has begun marching toward the Chechen Republic from the direction of Ingushetia. ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov reported from Nazran that it had been cut off for a while near the village of Barsuki.

Sharip Asuyev, the ITAR-TASS correspondent in Groznyy, reports that the city is calm at the moment but local residents are becoming increasingly nervous. They are not getting any information on what is happening. Radio is not working in Groznyy.

Movement of Russian Armor Column Detailed

LD1112104094 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0500 this morning Russian forces began an offensive against Groznyy. A column of Russian forces attacking from Mozdok has now passed through the village of Znamenskoye. News agency correspondents report from the scene of events that this military group contains 200 units of hardware, including 30 tanks, more than 50 armored personnel carriers, 10 self-propelled guns, several antiaircraft weapons, and about 70 vehicles carrying personnel and munitions. The column is being escorted by combat helicopters.

Russian Ministers Coordinate Operations

LD1112092694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0852 GMT 11 Dec 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning. This is a special "Novosti" bulletin. An armed group of the Defense Ministry and the interior forces has entered the territory of the Chechen Republic to restore constitutional order. Our correspondent reports by telephone.

[Correspondent Andrey Murtazin] [Word indistinct] o'clock this morning Russian forces began to enter Chechen territory. This action is being carried out in implementation of President Yeltsin's edict on disarming illegal armed formations. It was reported at the Temporary Information Center in Mozdok that the forces are moving into Chechnya from North Ossetia from the direction of Beslan and Mozdokskiy rayon without encountering armed resistance. At 1000 this

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morning they were 60 km from the Chechen capital. It is believed that Groznyy will be completely blockaded by 2200.

You will recall that the group of Russian forces deployed since 1 December consists of forces from the Russian Defense Ministry, the interior forces of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, and special forces. The heads of all of Russia's power ministries are now in the conflict zone to coordinate operations: Pavel Grachev, Viktor Yerin, and Sergey Stepashin, as well as Nikolay Yegorov, deputy prime minister and nationalities minister. [video shows map of Chechnya]

Aushev Cited on Ingush Resistance

LD1112083494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0730 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning Russian troops began an offensive on Groznyy. They are moving in three directions, from Ingushetia, North Ossetia, and Dagestan. Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev told our radio station that the population of Ingushetia is putting up resistance, and there have already been casualties. According to Aushev, five or six columns are moving across the territory of Ingushetia, each with approximately 90 units of armored equipment.

Five Dead, 10 Wounded in Ingushetia

LD1112114594 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1129 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest information, five Ingushes were killed and more than 10 wounded as a result of a clash between Russian troops and the local population in Ingushetia, Ingushetia Vice President Boris Agapov said. At about noon today, while a column of Russian armor was passing through the settlement of Znamenskoye, an APC [armored personnel carrier] opened fire on a Zhiguli car that was obstructing the progress of the troops. As a result, two local inhabitants received gunshot wounds. At about 1300, yet another column of several dozen units of armor passed through Znamenskoye.

Further on Casualties in Ingushetia

LD1112172294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We begin our program with reports on the situation in Chechnya. [passage omitted]. According to Chechnya's Interim Council, several civilians have been involved in incidents in various settlements. It has been reported that 11 local residents were wounded. Meanwhile, the head of the press center of the Russian Government, Valentin Sergeyev, has denied Russian troops clashed with civilians on the border between Chechnya and Ingushetia.

[Begin Sergeyev recording] Everything proceeds calmly and according to the plan. The internal troops and Defense Ministry servicemen show restaint. There have been no incidents. [passage omitted] [end recording]

According to INTERFAX, the Russian troops which were moving on the territory of Ingushetia towards Groznyy have stopped. Ingushetian President Ruslan Aushev said that six houses and a mosque have been destroyed in the republic. The Russian aviation has carried out the bombing of the area 6 km from Nazran. Three residents of Ingushetia were killed and 15 wounded. Among those killed was Ingushetian health minister (Telerman Garchkhanov). He tried to stop a military column when he was dragged out of his car and beaten up. [passage omitted]

INTERFAX has reported an hour ago that according to Chechnya's Foreign Minister Yusef, the talks have been called off. [passage omitted]

Armored Vehicles Continue Advancement

LD1112185794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A column of Russian armored vehicles continues the advancement to Groznyy from Ingushetia. Musa Merzhuyev, Dudayev's representative in the General Staff of the Chechen armed forces, told Interfax that the Russian column had passed the village of Barsuki in Ingushetia and is now at a distance of 15 km from the Ingush-Chechen border.

In Barsuki, the column was blocked by the Ingush population. Our correspondent reports that two Ingush citizens were killed and eight wounded during a clash.

Russian troops are reported to have entered the Shelkovskoy Region in the north of Chechnya. They are entrenching themselves near the village of Chervlennoye.

In the Nadterechny Region, a column of Russian troops has approached the village of Ken-Yurt 20 km north of Groznyy, an officer on duty reports. The Russian tanks are reported to have reached the village of Goragorsk on the border between the Nadterechny and Groznyy regions of Chechnya.

Several Armored Vehicles Burned in Ingushetia

LD1112190494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several Russian armored vehicles were burning in the village Barsuki in Ingushetia, an Interfax correspondent reported from the site referring to eye-witnesses. The motorcade was moving along the highway Moscow-Baku from Beslan (North Ossetia) towards the Chechen capital Groznyy.

According to various sources, there were killed and wounded among Ingush nationals who tried to stop the Russian motorcade. At the moment, the motorcade is moving forward under protection by combat helicopters.

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Chechen government troops and volunteers have already took positions near the village Sleptsovskaya on the Ingush-Chechen border and the village Assinovskaya where Chechen outposts are located. The troops stationed around Assinovskaya were reinforced by units of the Chechen State Security Department.

The department told Interfax that Russian troops had started to take positions in Dagestan along a highway located 4-5 km from the administrative border with Chechnya.

Mobile anti-aircraft installations appeared against on the streets, an Interfax correspondent reported from Grozny. Women and children are evacuated to neighboring villages, shops and services are closed down. However, the city's market place is still open.

Government Spokesman Comments on Troop Movement

LD1112143594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—The situation in and around the Chechen capital Groznyy and along the routes of the movement of Russian Army convoys remains normal, Russian Government Spokesman Valentin Sergeyev said on Sunday [11 December].

One of the convoys stopped in the village of Ken-Yurt, 15 km from Groznyy, other units of the Russian Interior and Defence Ministries continue moving towards the Chechen capital, according to Colonel-General Aleksey Mityukhin, commander of the North Caucasian Military District.

Sergeyev said that the local population reacts to the troop movement calmly.

He explained that the measures to seal off the rebel Republic of Chechnya and its capital aim at preventing mercenaries and adventure-seekers from penetrating the Republic under the guise of sports or tourist groups, traders or relatives, as well as at keeping arms, explosives and drugs out of Chechnya. These tasks are being solved without shooting, Sergeyev added.

The military negotiate with the people who try to block the convoys, explaining to them presidential decrees and governmental resolutions, including on urgent measurers to restore and develop the economic and social spheres of the Chechen Republic.

The government is taking measures to provide the Chechen population with food and other basic necessities, and restore the republic's infrastructure and economy.

Sergeyev expressed the hope that the measures to ensure the security and territorial integrity of Russia and enforce the legitimate rights and freedoms will be carried out peacefully.

Dudayev 'Doing Best' To Avoid Bloodshed

LD1112153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1509 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 11 TASS—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev told ITAR-TASS on Sunday that he and his government were doing their best to avoid a bloodshed and prevent senseless deaths.

Dudayev spoke by telephone from his office on the eighth floor of the presidential palace in the centre of Groznyy, capital of Chechnya.

Meanwhile, about 2,000 people rallied on the city's central square to protest against the advance of Russian troops into the republic.

Two television channels continuously broadcast special news programmes telling the residents about the situation and urging them to remain vigilant.

Dudayev Says 'We Shall Defend Ourselves'

LD1112113694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1300 hours Moscow time today, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said in an interview with INTERFAX that Russia is to blame for the consequences—which may be unpredictable—of the war that has started. According to Dudayev, Moscow is doing all it can to make the Vladikavkaz talks planned for Monday [12 December] impossible, which it has itself proposed. We shall defend ourselves, said the Chechen leader.

Yegorov Outlines Goals of Operation

LD1112191594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1811 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Dec (ITAR-TASS)— A spokesman of the Provisional Information Center in North Caucasus has circulated a report which says that groupings of internal troops of the Russian Interior Ministry, jointly with subunits of the armed forces of the Russian Defense Ministry, today completed the first stage of the operation on the territory of Chechnya. They managed to seal off the territory used by illegal armed formations for their actions. No active operations are foreseen at night time.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, there have been no casualties among its personnel.

Nikolay Yegorov, a special envoy of the Russian president and the deputy chairman of the Russian Government, the report says, has explained to the citizens of the Chechen republic and the population of the Republic of Dagestan and other republics of North Caucasus the

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tasks which are being tackled by the internal troops, Interior Ministry bodies and the armed forces of Russia. They are the following: to disarm illegal armed formations; protect the population from extremism; create conditions for the stabilization of the socio-political situation; restore constitutionality, law and order, and also the economy of the Chechen republic.

Yegorov pointed out, the Provisional Information Center reports, that the government is prepared to start implementing measures of state support to Chechnya immediately. In the next three months, foodstuffs will be delivered to the republic and it will receive the necessary help. This program can only be implemented if strong-arm methods are denounced and if the population shows tolerance towards each other and towards Russian servicemen who are carrying out their constitutional duty.

'Advance Detachments' Near Groznyy

LD1112202494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] During daylight hours Russian troops continued their offensive on Groznyy, but the troops had to stop their advance when night fell. The advance detachments are around the settlement of Tolstoy-Yurt village, 20 kilometers from Groznyy. Our correspondent reports from the Chechen capital:

[Unidentified correspondent] At the moment, the main part of the northern group of the Russian Army is concentrated around Znamenskoye and Tolstoy-Yurt. Local people say that the Russian soldiers are carrying out mass searches of Chechen houses in the hope of finding weapons.

Troops moving from the west, from the Vladikavkaz side, met with opposition from the Ingush population. According to the main staff of the Chechen Republic, the Ingush managed to put 21 Russian tanks out of action. Russia responded by launching a missile strike from helicopters, destroying the mosque in the village of Gazi-Yurt and killing 15 civilians. We have just received information that Chechen troops took six Russian armored vehicles and 47 soldiers. The soldiers say they want to make a statement to the press. There have not been any statements by official Groznyy yet, but Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's order that refugees be evacuated is the subject of much discussion in the wings.

Vladikavkaz Offers To Mediate Conflict

LD1112120894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1142 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladikavkaz, 11 December—Vladikavkaz is willing to hold talks to resolve the conflict in the Chechen republic with the involvement of the Russian Federation Government working commission, representatives of the Groznyy authorities and the opposition to begin on 12 December, President of North Ossetia Akhsarbek Galazov told a sitting of the republican government presidium today.

North Ossetia, he said, is closely following the course of events in Chechnya. The task of our neighbors, he continued, is to help that republic extricate itself from the current situation and reach peace.

Russian Federation representatives arrived in Vladikavkaz today. The delegation is headed by Russian Federation Deputy Minister of Nationalities and Regional Policy Vyacheslav Mikhaylov and includes Deputy Minister of Education Aleksandr Asmolov. Also in the delegation is Vladimir Lozovoy, who heads the interim administration of part of the republics North Ossetia and Ingushetia and holds the rank of Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Government, plus State Duma and Federation Council deputies.

Aushev, Galazov Comment on Chechnya

LD1112205694 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This is what [Ingush President] Ruslan Aushev said to our program on the eve of these events in Moscow after the sitting of the Federation Council:

[Begin Aushev recording] How can we hold back the Ingushes if for us Ingushes and Chechens are the same people—the Vaynakhs, we are the same nation. And you won't be able to hold back the people without my will, without the will of any leader of the republic, not just my republic but other North Caucasian republics too. Here in Ingushetia, everybody, 100 percent of the people, believe that no force should be used against the Chechens. There are not just the Chechens there, there are 30,000 Ingushes and 100,000 of Russian- speaking population—Russians and other nationalities. And now when we see that Groznyy is ready for the talks, why should we not use this opportunity? We should talk and get out of this dead end only through negotiations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Begin recording of North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov, identified by caption] In this situation all branches of power have to unite and to work out a policy which would be connected not with Ossetia or Ingushetia or Chechnya, but with Russia and its policy in the Caucasus. This Russian policy has to be worked out by the people who want to preserve unity and integrity in Russia. Secondly, professionals ought to be doing this—the people who really know the situation and can suggest solutions which will take the Caucasus out of the crisis which it has found itself in today. [end recording]

[Begin recording of Federation Council Deputy Chairman Ramazan Abdulatipov, identified by caption] We are now talking about the failure of the non-existent ethnic policy. It just does not exist because we have had

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no guidance in this direction for the past couple of years. All sorts of obstacles are being put in our way, first and foremost, by the federal bodies of power. [end recording]

New Air Strike on Groznyy Reported

LD1112182094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1756 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 11 Dec—A new air strike has been made at Groznyy. Flares are fizzling out in the eastern outskirts of the city, and the residents of many houses have switched off the lights in expectation of more strikes.

About an hour ago, warplanes appeared for the first time over the northern outskirts of Groznyy in the direction of the Tolstoy-Yurt settlement, and bomb explosions could be heard.

Defense Ministry Denies Reports of Air Strikes

LD1112191994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1906 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—The Provisional Information Centre of the Russian Government denied reports about a new air strike on the outskirts of the Chechen Capital Groznyy on Sunday.

The centre quoted its representative in Mozdok, North Ossetia (Russian North Caucasian republic neighbouring on Chechnya), as saying that the reports are "groundless."

"During the whole the day of December 11, 1994 not a single Russian Air Force plane was engaged in action," the Provisional Information Centre said.

Earlier today, an ITAR-TASS correspondent reported from Groznyy that a new air strike had been delivered on the Chechen capital on Sunday. He said the planes had come from the direction of the village of Tolstoy-Yurt and were said to be clearing the way for one of the three convoys approaching the city. Bomb explosions could be heard.

Opposition Leader Comments on 'Offensive'

LD1112103694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] An offensive by Russian troops on Groznyy began this morning. Troops are moving in three directions—from Ingushetia, North Ossetia, and Dagestan. [passage omitted]

An ITAR-TASS correspondent in Nazran confirmed that a column was blockaded for a while in the vicinity of the settlement of Barsuki. [passage omitted]

Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the interim council of Chechnya, said that the opposition will only lay down its arms once Dudayev's supporters have been disarmed. He said that the interim council agreed this with a representative of the Russian leadership in the North Caucasus. Avturkhanov said that opposition subunits will hand only military equipment over to the Russian troops that have entered Chechnya.

Interim council administration head Zayndi Choltayev does not think that there can be any talk of war now.

[Begin Choltayev recording] I know that no state of emergency has been introduced. There is no massed introduction of troops, but the operation by Russian subunits to neutralize gang formations in the Chechen Republic has already begun. [end recording]

[Announcer] This is what Zayndi Choltayev said about the movement of Russian troops from the direction of Mozdok.

[Begin Choltayev recording] Subunits of troops of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry have passed through our territory and they passed calmly. Most importantly, there was not a single shot from one side or the other. The population is greeting them normally. Bazaars in the streets are continuing to operate. So, everything is proceeding normally. I think that there may be resistance only on the approaches to Groznyy where the gang formations are concentrated.

[Announcer] [Passage omitted] Valentin Sergeyev, head of the press service of the Cabinet of Ministers, said that the Russian Government earlier took measures to protect the civilian population of Chechnya. He said that there was a partial evacuation of women and children from Groznyy and its environs. Service support units of the Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs have organized the supply of food to areas where people continue to live.

Caucasus Peoples Congress Deliberates Crisis

LD1112141294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1305 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As we reported already, the extraordinary session of the Peoples of the Caucasus is continuing in Nalchik. Here is Pavel Guskov with an up-to-date report and details of the situation in the region. Good afternoon Pavel, we are listening:

[Guskov] Good afternoon, Vladimir. The half hour break in the work of the extraordinary Congress of the Peoples of the Caucasus ended about five minutes ago. It is being held in the Nart [as heard] hotel in Nalchik and is continuing to discuss the situation in the region.

Nevertheless, several documents adopted at the congress so far give an impression of the mood here. First of all, I have to tell my colleague Anton Zharov—he is in Mozdok—that the delegation has not yet left for Mozdok to meet the power ministries of the Russian Federation. That will probably be tomorrow.

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Another delegation has been formed—a delegation that includes—well, it could not be called a delegation—on the whole it is a large group of delegates—around 500 people, no less—a representative of every people of the Caucasus—intends to arrive in Groznyy and to form a human chain around the town tomorrow to avert a tragic development of events.

Here in Nalchik several other texts, other documents, have been adopted and approved, in particular, an appeal to the leaders of North Ossetia, of Kabardino-Balkaria, and Karachayevo-Cherkessiya to hinder the movement of troops toward Chechnya, and to do everything to guarantee the peaceful development of events and the continuation of the talks' process, in particular, those planned for tomorrow.

Telegrams have even been sent to the president of Russia, the chairman of the Federation Council, and the chairman of the State Duma—and the authors of these telegrams—the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus—demand that the talks' process should continue and that pressure by force should be stopped.

An operational headquarters to coordinate activities has been set up and, in particular, there is a statement which says that unless the tragic development of events is halted, unless the development by force of events is halted, the peoples of the Caucasus will be called upon to leave the Federation Treaty of the Russian Federation.

Meanwhile, there is information here about what is happening in Nazran. Our agency, and Mayak in particular, has reported already that there are casualties. Unfortunately, that is so. There were two attempts—rather even unprovoked, involuntary attempts to stop the column of our Russian troops—that was in the vicinity of the settlement of Barsuki, and between the Cossack villages of Sleptsovskaya and Karabulak.

It is not yet known how events are developing now. But with regard to Ingushetia, a statement by President Ruslan Aushev was read out in Nazran today about what has happened. He thinks it necessary to demand categorically an end to such actions and the beginning, rather continuation of the talks' process.

I may go on the air today again after 1800, after the work of the extraordinary congress has ended. That is all my news for now. Mayak, Pavel Guskov, North Caucasus.

Further on Caucasus Peoples Congress

LD1112151794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1423 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The emergency Congress of the Caucasian Peoples opened in Nalchik (the capital of Kabardino-Balkaria) today.

The Congress initiated by the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples called for mass actions of protest against introducing Russian troops into Chechnya.

The Congress unites Caucasian delegates from Adygeiya, Abkhazia, Dagestan, Karachayevo-Cherkessiya, Kabardino-Balkaria, Chechnya, North and South Ossetia as well as Ter Cossacks and a delegation of the Russian Patriotic Front.

President of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples Musa Shanibov told the Congress that he considered reports of the Russian media on the introduction of Russian troops into Chechnya as "provocation." He cited Chechen Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev as saying that Russian troops had not been brought to the Chechen territory controlled by Groznyy.

Shanibov said that the Russian leaders had chosen the Caucasian region as a "training site for imposing the authoritarian regime in the country."

"By supporting the Chechen people we support the entire Caucasus and all peoples of Russia," he said.

Chairman of the Parliament of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples Ali Aliyev proposed that every Caucasian people send a thousand of its representatives for a march of peace to Groznyy in order "to prevent war in Chechnya."

He also proposed that the Congress urge the North Caucasian leaders to take a clear stand on the Chechen problem and demand that the Russian leaders resolve the conflict in Chechnya only by peace methods. Aliyev said the parliaments in the North Caucasus must hold emergency sessions in order to work out their position on the Chechen issue.

The Congress is expected to form a delegation which will go to Groznyy and Mozdok for examining the situation.

Caucasus Congress Ends, Resolution Adopted

LD1112173294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1612 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The extraordinary congress of the Caucasian Peoples has just ended in Nalchik. We have already reported on the beginning of its work in the morning Panorama and at the beginning of the daytime Panorama. The Congress ended by adopting a resolution which looks very restrained and moderate if one compares it to the quite heated speeches at the congress. True, the resolution states at the beginning that today's events could become the start of a Caucasian war. Nevertheless,the resolution stands for political settlements and appeals to the Russian leaders and power bodies with a call to avoid bloodshed.

As to another piece of news, it is quite interesting. It looks as if today's extraordinary circumstances will make the Congress of Caucasian Peoples a permanent body. It has been decided to hold its next sitting on 16 December in Vladikavkaz, with an analysis of events for that period.

This is Pavel Gunko, for Mayak from Vladikavkaz.

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Gaydar Cautions Against Storming Groznyy

LD1112212694 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Dec 94

[Interview with Yegor Gaydar, leader of the Russia's Choice Party, by correspondent Kiselev in Moscow—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kiselev] Yegor Gaydar is now in our studio, as I promised you at the beginning of the program. [passage omitted]

I would like to ask you this right away—today government officials said that despite the introduction of troops into Chechnya, there would not be any storm of Groznyy. Yet, you said at the Pushkin square rally today that the storm of Groznyy might start as soon as tonight, that is, during the night from Sunday to Monday [12 December] . What are your reasons to make such a serious and crucial statement?

[Gaydar] We have received reports, and we have obtained our own information that Groznyy may be stormed tonight. I very much hope that this information will not be confirmed. I would regard such a decision as a terrible mistake. And I believe I must do my very best to ensure this will not happen.

[Kiselev] [passage omitted] Have you tried to get in touch with Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin]?

[Gaydar] Yes, I tried to get in touch with him, but I regret to say I could not get through—for the first time in many years. I got in touch with Prime Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin. I spoke to him. I thought the prime minister has taken quite a wise position. This inspires me with certain optimism that the most extreme decisions on the storm of Groznyy will not be taken. [passage omitted]

Chechnya Confirms Participation in Peace Talks

LD1112213194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2107 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy 12 Dec (TASS)—The Chechen authorities confirmed late on Sunday [11 December] that they would attend the talks due to be held in Vladikavkaz on Monday.

"In order to save the lives of people we will try one more time to avert a big war in the Caucasus," Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's spokesman told ITAR-TASS.

A representative of the Provisional Information Centre of the Russian Government in the North Caucasus said on Sunday that talks in Vladikavkaz on Monday in an attempt to settle the Chechen conflict.

The talks will involve representatives of the official Chechen authorities and the Chechen opposition, and will be attended by Akhsarbek Galazov, president of North Ossetia, where the negotiations will take place.

An agreement to this effect was reached between Russian special envoy Vyacheslav Mikhailov, Chechen Justice Minister Usman Imayev and the Chechen opposition today. Both sides confirmed that they would arrive in Vladikavkaz for talks on Monday.

Russian Troop Concentrations Reported

LD1212092294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0600 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Talks on a settlement in Chechnya are due to begin in Vladikavkaz at 1500 today. [passage omitted]

According to information reported by an EXPRESS-KHRONIKA correspondent from Groznyy this morning, the largest concentration of Russian troops has been noted in the area of the village of Znamenskoye, where about 60 pieces of armored equipment are located. In all, according to figures from the Chechen military command, Russia has about 500 armored vehicles and approximately 50 helicopters in the region.

On Sunday evening, while one of the Russian columns was advancing toward Groznyy, Chechen troops succeeded in surrounding a motorized rifle company, military unit 36-71, commanded by Captain Romanov. According to some reports, there are officers with the rank of colonel among the prisoners. Today the 47 prisoners are expected to meet with journalists in Groznyy.

A large group of Russian women living in Groznyy is expected to go to meet with the troops today to prevent bloodshed. This decision was adopted last night at a rally in front of the presidential palace. [passage omitted]

Delegations Set To Begin Talks

LD1212112494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 12 TASS—A delegation of the Groznyy authorities went to Vladikavkaz, the capital of the neighbouring North Ossetian republic, for talks with the working commission of the Russian Government. The delegation is headed by Chechen Economics and Finance Minister Taymaz Abubakarov. He is accompanied by Chechen deputy justice and interior ministers, the Groznyy mayor and other officials.

It is expected that the talks will start at 15:00 Moscow time (12.00 GMT). They will be attended by North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov.

Despite the dramatic developments in and outside Chechnya, there are still possibilities for a peaceful

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settlement of the conflict in that North Caucasian republic, the presidential envoy to the Chechen conflict area believes.

Nikolay Yegorov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president and deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, addressed on Sunday citizens of Chechnya as well as the population of neighbouring Dagestan and other North Caucasian republics, explaining the tasks set before Russian interior and army troops in Chechnya.

Yegorov specially stressed that the Russian Government is ready to start immediately implementing measures of state support for Chechnya. Foodstuffs will be delivered to the republic in the next three months. It will also receive other emergency aid.

The implementation of this programme is possible only if the opposing sides in Chechnya refrain from the use of force, treat patiently each other as well as Russian troops performing their constitutional duty.

In this connection, it should be noted that, according to an expert of the Russian Interior Ministry in Mozdok, there were attempts to block military units of the Interior and Defence Ministries (including attempts with the use of armour) in some villages and towns—Voznesenskaya, Nazran, Barsuki and Novy Redant.

The army columns were fired at on several occasions. Fire was conducted on petrol tank-cars and vehicle wheels.

Interior troops were blocked by militants in the area of Khasavyurt and Gerzel who detained 47 Russian men and officers and several armoured personnel carriers.

Yegorov Comments on Delegation's 'Positions'

LD1212104594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov told our correspondent Marina Chernukha in an interview that there were problems in moving the troops through the territory of Ingushetia. According to Yegorov, a strong blockade of the column was organized. Yesterday evening the column was fired on by persons unknown shooting from behind women and children. There are wounded among the servicemen.

As for the talks planned today on a settlement in Chechnya, Yegorov said that the delegation representing the federal center will take two basic positions: Chechnya must remain a component of the Russian Federation and, second, all illegal armed groups in this republic must be disarmed.

Chechen Security Council Reportedly Declares War

LD1212110094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—"The Security Council of the Chechen Republic decided at its Sunday meeting to declare a war to Russia", the provisional information centre for Chechnya said in Moscow on Monday.

It was also said that the Chechen authorities continue preparations for resistance to Russian troops deployed in the republic.

The provisional centre said that government Chechen units are being reinforced by workers from local enterprises. A 1,000-men strong regiment was formed 45 kilometres away from Groznyy, in the settlements of Arshtyy, Bamut and Chemulga, and was armed with tanks, armoured personnel carries and a helicopter.

The centre also reported that the command system of Chechen forces is being improved. The central command post was set up at the Khankala airfield six kilometres east of Groznyy. Additional anti-aicraft strongholds are being established in the Chechen capital. Most of the Chechen armour has advanced to the outskirts of Groznyy. Three hospitals were set up.

According to the provisional centre, a two-thousand men strong "anti-Russian" rally is going on in front of the presidential palace in Groznyy.

Grachev Says Aushev 'Declared War' on Yeltsin

LD1212095794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0914 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The provisional information center has just circulated a statement by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev about yesterday's incidents in Ingushetia. I quote:

We never thought that on our own territory, anyone, hiding behind women and children, would shoot their own citizens in army uniform in the back. According to the Russian defense minister, local inhabitants, taking advantage of the fact that servicemen could not use violence against the peaceful population, have been dragging troops out of their vehicles. According to the minister, 30 vehicles were burned. All this has been done with the clear agreement of the leadership of Ingushetia and with the participation of special units of that republic's Interior Ministry who have been directing fire at the servicemen. Pavel Grachev believes Ingush President Ruslan Aushev to all intents and purposes has declared war on the Russian president.

Groznyy Denies War Declared on Russia

LD1212112394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1102 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 12 Dec—The temporary information center of the government of Russia reported today that a decision to declare war on Russia was adopted at a sitting of the Security Council of the Chechen Republic on Sunday.

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Official Groznyy categorically denies this report. A staff member of Dzhokhar Dudayev's apparatus, who wished to remain anonymous told ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev: "We have always been in favor of, are in favor of and, despite all the provocations, will be in favor of seeking peaceful ways for resolving the conflict." [passage omitted]

Chechen Delegation Prepares for Talks

LD1212091194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0658 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Dec—A delegation of official Groznyy is preparing to leave for Vladikavkaz for talks with the working commission of the Russian Government for settling the conflict in Chechnya. An agreement on this was reached yesterday by telephone between commission chief Vyacheslav Mikhaylov and Chechen Procurator General Usman Imayev.

On the morning of the second day of the dramatic events in Chechnya, columns of armored vehicles remained in positions occupied by evening: at the Ingush village of Karabulak, in the vicinity of the settlement of Tolstoy-Yurt, and on the frontier with Dagestan. No clashes were registered overnight.

Although the prospects of the talks are giving rise to hope in people, alarm remains. A trip by an ITAR-TASS correspondent last night toward the frontier with Ingushetia showed that more or less every suburban plot of land, be it a rise or a bend in the road, has been turned into a fortress. Bridges have been closed off with reinforced concrete blocs and, according to some information, have been mined.

Not only the Chechen intelligence, but also local inhabitants are observing troop ground location and actions closely. All night long, ham radio operators were exchanging information and passing it on to their fellow citizens by radio. A rally under the slogan of defending Chechnya's freedom and independence continues in Groznyy in front of the presidential palace. Today, the ranks of rally participants have visibly diminished; many of them have gone to take up defense positions. Representatives of the Russian-speaking population, mainly women, have left Freedom Square and gone to meet the columns of armored vehicles. They said they are doing their utmost to avert bloodshed.

According to a report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin in Stavropol, the column blocked near the Ingush village of Yandyrka did not open fire over night. Some of the servicemen spent the night in armored vehicles and others is open trenches. This morning, Garon Khamokhoyev, a spokesman of the president of Ingushetia in Stavropol, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the column which was blocked twice yesterday and moved forward only about 20 km, has begun to move back. It is not yet known whether it will carry out a detour maneuver or retreat.

Garon Khamokhoyev claims that five people were killed and 12 injured yesterday in the path of this column and about 15 homes were set ablaze as a result of exchanges of fire.

48 Soldiers 'Blocked' on Dagestan Border

LD1212114594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1121 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 12 TASS—Russia confirmed on Monday that 48 soldiers sent to rebel Chechnya from the territory of neighbouring Dagestan were blocked on the border.

"48 crew members of four armoured personnel carriers were blocked by local residents on the administrative border between Dagestan and Chechnya", TASS was told by a spokesman of the Russian Government who added that "the military refrained from opening fire until the causes of the incident were clarified".

According to the government information centre for Chechnya, Deputy Chairman of the State Council of Dagestan Magomedov left to settle the incident after a telephone conversation with Nikolay Yegorov, the presidential envoy to the conflict area.

"It is expected that the conflict will be settled in the coming hours and the Russian military hardware will continue its movement" to Chechnya, according to the information centre.

More Russian Soldiers Reportedly Captured

LD1212122094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1158 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 12 Dec—Another 11 Russian officers and men were taken prisoner early this morning on the Chechen border with Dagestan. The CHECHENPRESS agency reported this at 1430, quoting its correspondent Visami Tutuyev in Dagestan.

He claimed that all the peoples of neighboring Dagestan "are already coming out in support of Chechnya. People's volunteer detachments are being formed in all the villages, many young people have taken to wearing the green headdress of Ghazawat [conquest] and the slogans "Chechnya and Dagestan are united" can be heard.

Russian Forces Continue Advance as Talks Begin

LD1212135794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1347 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 12 TASS—Russian troops continued advancing on the Chechen

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capital of Groznyy on Monday as peace talks between Russia and Groznyy began in the neighbouring republic of North Ossetia.

One of the three armoured convoys of Russian troops advanced to Groznyy from the settlement of Znamenskoye via the village of Gora-Gorsk. Dozens of armoured vehicles supported by combat aircraft and helicopters approached the village of Dolinskiy, 20 kilometres away from Groznyy.

Another Russian armoured convoy moving to Chechnya from Ingushetia has crossed the Chechen border near the settlement of Assinovskaya, TASS correspondent reported from Nazran.

In the meantime, talks between a delegation of the official Groznyy and Russia began in the North Ossetian capital of Vladikavkaz. TASS was told by telephone from the administration of North Ossetian leader Akhsarbek Galazov that he is participating in the negotiations.

Official Groznyy is represented by the economics and finance minister. Russian envoy to the conflict area Nikolay Yegorov is also present.

Yeltsin's Tilt Away From 'Peace Party' Viewed

MM1212110794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 4

[Article by the IZVESTIYA Analysis Center under the "Instant Analysis of the Week" rubric: "Chechnya: The Kremlin's Difficult Choice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian president faces the most crucial choice of his life. On the one hand, the choice of war or a state of emergency which could develop into a war at any moment. On the other, a complex process of negotiations which does not promise rapid and impressive success. A demonstration of physical strength or moral strength.

In the attempts to influence this choice two forces and positions have emerged in society: the "peace party" and the "state of emergency party."

The Federal Assembly has become the organizing center of the "peace party" in recent days. At closed sessions of the two chambers on December 8, there was a unanimity among the deputies not seen in post-August Russia in which the vast majority voted against the introduction of a state of emergency on the Chechen Republic's territory and for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

As has become known, the speaker of the senate, Mr. Shumeyko, resolutely stated that the Federation Council will not approve any presidential edict on the introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya but at the same time advocated a total blockade of the republic. However, even such a moderately tough proposal was rejected by the Federation Council.

In the State Duma the leaders of all the main factions, even those who in calmer times demanded the restoration of the single state within the 1945 borders, voted against the state of emergency regime and the introduction of the troops into Chechen territory.

Those responsible for implementing the Russian Federation's policy in the Caucasus, in particular Mr. Shakhray, former minister for nationalities affairs, and Mr. Abdulatipov, who once held the post of deputy head of that department, were sternly condemned. As one of the officially named culprits of the present situation, Mr. Shakhray will most probably be stripped of the vice premiership in the near future.

The head of state, who permitted the bombing of Groznyy and other unlawful actions, has also become the target of criticism. In this context the question was raised of the need to establish effective Duma control over the activity of all the power ministries, which according to present legislation is the exclusive prerogative of the president.

Thus the Russian Federation Federal Assembly has clearly advocated peace and negotiations. That is quite understandable. Apart from everything else, for the majority of deputies support for military measures against Chechnya would mean the rapid end of their political career because in the eyes of voters in the Russian Federation militarism is extremely unattractive.

Furthermore, it is quite obvious that the declaration of a state of emergency and the introduction of troops into Chechnya will inevitably reinforce the authoritarian tendencies in the structures of the executive, which will completely cease to take account of parliament and probably, at the first convenient opportunity, will dissolve both chambers. That prospect will jeopardize the very existence of an independent legislature in Russia.

It is noteworthy that a military solution to the Chechen problem was also opposed by the most popular figures in the Armed Forces at the moment—Army General B. Gromov, former commander of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, and Lieutenant General A. Lebed, who has tremendous experience of conducting peacemaking operations in hot spots in the former USSR. Thus within the top leadership of the Armed Forces on the eve of the opening of military actions there is a visible split which reflects the complexity of the moods in the army.

The whole pro-reform section of the government is also undoubtedly opposed to the launching of military actions because the atmosphere of a state of emergency itself creates additional difficulties for the stabilization of the economy and for the implementation of market reforms. The prime minister has also repeatedly expressed a negative attitude to the use of strong-arm measures against Chechnya.

The natural adherents of the "peace party" are representatives of Russia's entrepreneurial circles, for whom war

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means increasing the level of state intervention in the economy, an increase in (already ruinous) taxation to cover the costly war games, and so forth.

The majority of Russia's political parties have spoken out in favor of a peaceful solution, which fully accords with the moods of the bulk of the voters.

The "peace party" is opposed by the "state of emergency," party which is less numerous but also influential. The concept of a "state of emergency" is interpreted in various ways within that "party." In fact it is only unique individuals like Duma Deputy Nikolay Lysenko, former [as published] chairman of the National Republican Party, who want war: He demands that "the army be given a precise, clear, and unconditional order to destroy the criminal separatist regime in Chechnya" (at the same time demanding that "all the major Russian newspapers be nationalized, all the editors of those newspapers down to the level of department editor be dismissed," and other equally ostentatious measures be implemented).

But the conditions of a state of emergency, which combines the blockade of Chechnya with the implementation of individual localized military actions, in other words, war brinkmanship, would suit very many people. First, they would suit a section of the top leadership of the Defense Ministry, for whom the state of emergency is perhaps the only means of remaining in office and blaming past transgressions on a failure to act promptly.

Second, they would suit a section of the leadership of other power ministries, whose status and significance always increase at times of strong-arm confrontation.

Third, they would suit a section of government circles connected with the military-industrial complex. For them the potential threat of armed conflict will mean military orders.

Fourth, they would suit a section of the top political and civil service elite, for whom the state of emergency regime offers the enticing prospect of preserving indefinitely the power structure which suits them very much in its present form.

The strength of the "state of emergency party" lies in its proximity to the president and therefore its ability to influence decision-making should not be underestimated.

The ultimatum to Chechnya with demands that are deliberately unfulfillable creates the impression that the president is coming under powerful pressure designed to incline him toward the "state of emergency party." However, Yeltsin has not been a captive of his own position yet and has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to maneuver flexibly in seemingly hopeless situations.

Much will also depend on the Chechen leader. For the talks to end successfully Dudayev must demonstrate at least a minimum ability to seek compromise solutions. In this regard the status of Chechnya as a component of the Russian Federation formulated in mutual treaty obligations between Moscow and Groznyy would correspond most of all to the interests of the republic's population. Because whereas problems of power, sovereignty, and so forth are the most important thing for the politicians, what matters most to the people is the question of "how to go on living."

Russia must not try to "conquer" or "subjugate" Chechnya. It has legitimate interests in the Caucasus. But these interests must be defended worthily and with a consciousness of one's own responsibility.

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International Affairs

Bulgarians Hope To Establish 'Regular' Relations

95CH0022A Uzhhorod KARPATI IGAZ SZO in Hungarian 6 Oct 94 p 1

[Interview with Mihaly Toth, member of the Ukrainian Supreme Council's Human Rights Committee and chairman of its Subcommittee on Minority Affairs, by Elemer Koszeghy; place and date not given: "Ukrainian-Hungarian Relations on a Higher Level"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *We already reported that an official Ukrainian parliamentary delegation, headed by Speaker Oleksandr Moroz, visited Budapest for the first time, on the invitation of the Hungarian National Assembly's speaker. The large delegation included Mihaly Toth, chairman of the subcommittee on minority affairs, of the Supreme National Council's human rights committee.*

[Koszeghy] What was the purpose of this visit?

[Toth] The most important purpose of the visit was to establish regular relations between the two parliaments. This purpose has essentially been fulfilled: The two sides approved a joint communiqui on their cooperation. The mentioned agreement gives the two legislative bodies a framework for the exchange of information on legislative experience, mechanisms and methods.

[Koszeghy] What were the topics of discussion?

[Toth] We held a series of talks, on a very tight schedule. Since the visit was an official one, the delegation was received on the highest possible level. Besides Speaker Zoltan Gal, we held talks also with President Arpad Goncz, Prime Minister Gyula Horn, and Interior Minister Gabor Kuncze. At the Economic Ministry, we were received by State Secretary Imre Dunai; and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by State Secretary Istvan Szent-Ivanyi. To some extent, this already suggests what topics were discussed. There were separate talks with Hungarian businessmen—for instance, with Ikarus executives, among others. And there were separate talks also on the supply of pharmaceuticals.

[Koszeghy] Which were the topics that concerned specifically Subcarpathia [Transcarpathia]?

[Toth] Two issues were raised practically at every level. One concerned the border—namely, cross-border traffic, and the problem of the border-crossing points' infrastructure, including the physical state of the [Csap-(Chop)-Zahony] Tisza bridge. The other main issue was the situation of the ethnic Hungarian minority in Subcarpathia. Members of the two delegations also exchanged views regarding a free-trade zone. Oleksandr Moroz, for example, said that we favored gradualism—the piecemeal establishment of free-trade zones. The Beregszasz [Berehove] Hospital was likewise discussed as a joint task awaiting solution.

[Koszeghy] And what are the practical results?

[Toth] I see the most important result is that, from the viewpoint of political parties as well as professionally, the Ukrainian Supreme Council has gained very useful information about the situation in Hungary, about Hungary itself and the relations between the two countries. The visit has clearly raised Hungarian-Ukrainian relations to a qualitatively higher level. The most important in this relationship is that the issues elaborated and partially approved by the previous legislative bodies now be reopened, in order to make further progress on them possible.

On Economic Issues

LD0912135694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Dorosh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [No date as received]—"We lost the Ukrainian market, just as we did those in the former republics of the USSR after its breakup, and we now have to regain it on a fundamentally new basis," Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev said at a meeting with Supreme Council of Ukraine Chairman Oleksandr Moroz. And the ten agreements signed on 8 December, he said, came as the next step after the friendship and cooperation treaty between Ukraine and Bulgaria, which was signed in 1992.

The president of Bulgaria spoke of the severe difficulties resulting from the UN sanctions against former Yugoslavia. He said the southern embargo caused Bulgaria to suffer more than $6 billion of losses. "I think it abnormal that sanctions against an aggressor state should affect neighboring countries. Surely a way has to be found to repay this money," Zhelyu Zhelev said.

In this connection, Olekandr Moroz proposed forming joint supervisory commissions to influence the situation, because Ukraine also suffered from the UN sanctions.

Zhelyu Zhelev gave a negative assessment to the Serb stand of "the desire to create an ethnically cleansed state," describing the theory as fascist and extremely dangerous.

Oleksandr Moroz called for Bulgaria to play a more active role in the Parliamentary Assembly for Black Sea Economic Cooperation, because, in his words, that organization could more effectively protect their interests more effective.

Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev today addressed the Supreme Council of Ukraine, speaking of respect for the Ukrainian parliament and wishing it to be both a temple of democracy and an area of political struggle. He underscored it is important to find a balance between the president, parliament, government, and judiciary in Ukraine. "Time is needed for you to grow accustomed to synchronizing your work and to remove the danger of taking over another authority's functions in the transitional period," he said.

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Kiev, Iran Look To 'Restore' Contacts

AU0912180894 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 8 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Alla Kolomiyets: "Iran Is a Priority Trend"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 5 December, at the invitation of Ukraine's Supreme Council, an official delegation of the Majlis of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by chairman of the Majlis 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri arrived in Kiev. On 6 December, Nateq-Nuri made a speech at the plenary session of the Supreme Council and held negotiations with chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Moroz. In the second half of the day, the high-ranking delegation had a meeting with Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol.

At the beginning of the meeting, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri pointed out: "Our delegation bears only a resemblance to a purely parliamentary one. **In reality, there are more Executive Branch representatives in it.... Our goal is to restore mutual relations with independent Ukraine and to eliminate the shortcomings that prevent the establishment of businesslike economic relations. We would like them to be as good as our political relations."**

Observers focused on precisely this notion—restore. As a matter of fact, the present visit is the third attempt to establish business contacts between Ukraine and Iran.

Back in 1992, after the visit by Kostyantyn Masyk [former Ukrainian Prime Minister], the project "Gas—Pipes" was conceived. It was theoretically advantageous and necessary for both countries. However, the economic crisis and changes in the Ukrainian government resulted in the postponement of the project and became hopelessly obsolete. The Iranian initiative in 1993 may be regarded as the second attempt. Looking for markets that would not be controlled by the United States, Iran offered Ukraine a $30 million credit to purchase Iranian oil. However, due to the absence of a mechanism for implementing the project and internal and external political difficulties, Ukraine did not take the credit. A barter exchange deal attempt, more specifically, military merchandise offered by Ukraine, provoked the United States' sharp dissatisfaction.

At present, Iran and Ukraine are restoring economic relations in a void. The Iranian minister of commerce pointed out at that meeting that the lack of information on the two countries' alternatives is a disadvantage for both countries. Perhaps those present were somewhat surprised to hear about Iran's desire to see paper among the goods Iran wants to buy in Ukraine. However, Ukraine does have other goods in which the Iranian side expressed an interest: sugar, grain, and cooking oil. Regarding cooking oil, V. Masol noted with regret: We hope that the next harvest will be good, but this year, we hardly satisfy our own needs. Observers point out that Iran wants the same products for its oil with which Ukraine planned to pay to the Russian Gazprom [Gas Industry].

Iran's Minister of Defense pointed out that there exist three agreements between the corresponding departments, but mutual relations between them develop sluggishly. Meanwhile, the two sides could find common economic interests in the sphere of the know-how of the military-industrial complex. Iran is aware of achievements in the missile guidance and optics spheres and would like to get a closer look at the AN-72 and AN-74 aircraft and examine the possibilities of purchasing aircraft and spare parts for their repair.

The program for the high-level Iranian delegation's sojourn envisages a visit to the O. Antonov Aviation Scientific and Technological Complex; the guests would also like to visit the B. Paton [Metal Welding] Institute. Observers note the Iranians' active interest in large industrial associations. In a few days, negotiations with the leadership of the Zaporizhzhya "Motor-Sich" will be completed. Iranian specialists found everything they hoped to see there and are ready to conclude a mutually advantageous deal.

Foreign analysts comment that today, despite the fact that it has both oil and gas, Iran is in a rather difficult situation. One of the reasons for that is the decrease in world prices of oil plus the open opposition by the United States to any Iranian attempts to establish economic relations with other countries. This is a direct consequence of Iran's contacts with the United States' long-term adversary Saddam Husayn and internal political difficulties in Iran proper.... According to analysts, Iran presently has a huge external debt and must pay an annual $5 billion in order to cancel it by the year 2000.

However, the present visit by the Iranian delegation to Ukraine and the course of the negotiations indicate that, provided that there is good will, it is possible to find a suitable economic solution even in such conditions. The Iranian side proposed to open a branch of Ukraine's National Bank in Tehran. It also handed over a list of consumer goods that might be of interest to our commerce and spoke in detail about the development of ship navigation, which might also be useful for Ukraine.

Following the meeting at the Cabinet of Ministers, Vitaliy Masol answered several questions by the correspondent of the "Hot Line." In particular, he remarked that the third attempt to establish business contacts may also fail if accords are simply signed without efficient measures being taken for their implementation.

"We discussed a wide range of problems but are in no hurry to sign official accords. We have arrived at a common decision: It is necessary to create special commissions that would study the both sides' alternatives in particular spheres, including the problem of oil and gas pipeline, currently a frozen problem.

Separate negotiations will be held with Defense Minister V. Shmarov and Foreign Minister H. Udovenko. It is expected that President Kuchma will receive the Iranian delegation.

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UNA-UNSO Holds Chechnya Support Rally

LD1112215694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2020 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 11 Dec—Members of the Ukrainian National Assembly - Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNA-UNSO] held a rally in a square near the republican stadium in support of the Chechen Republic under the slogan: "Hands Off Chechnya". Dmytro Pavlychko from the Ukrainian Democratic Party, Slava Stetsko from the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, Levko Lukyanenko from the Ukrainian Republican Party and other famous political activists took part in the rally. Natalka Chanhuli and Anatoliy Lupynis made speeches on behalf of UNA-UNSO.

At the beginning of the rally, the participants learned that Russian tanks were advancing on Groznyy. In the words of Anatoliy Lupynis, the city will be stormed on the morning of 12 December. Before then Groznyy will be besieged. Ruslan Budayev, the representative of the Chechen Republic for Western Europe, who took part in the rally noted that the Chechen people only required moral support from Ukraine.

The participants of the rally adopted a resolution which called on all of Ukraine's citizens and political parties who were not indifferent to the fate of the Chechen people to picket the Russian embassy in Kiev and demand an end to the war in Chechnya. UNA-UNSO representatives also suggested that a proposal be submitted to the Supreme Council to repeal Article 187 of Ukraine's penal code on the criminal liability of Ukrainian citizens who take part in military conflicts of other states.

Kiev Opposes CIS Military Agreement

LD0912173894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow —"Ukraine has signed only those agreements which do not contradict its active legislation," Ukraine's First Deputy Premier Yevheniy Marchuk told UNIAN following a meeting of CIS heads of governments on 9 December in Moscow. He said that Ukraine had refused to sign agreements on military affairs, including the 1995 budget of the Council of CIS defense ministers and its working bodies. Yevheniy Marchuk said this was because Ukraine was not a member of the CIS defense council.

Ukraine signed a document on the CIS accident and disaster quick response corps. Under the agreement, the force will incorporate national accident relief subunits subordinated to a single intergovernmental command which will be on call to fly to emergency areas.

Kharkov, Moscow Oblasts Sign Protocol

LD1112112594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2225 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kharkov, 10 Dec—The leaders of Moscow and Kharkov oblasts have signed a protocol agreement on economic and cultural cooperation. The document envisages cooperation in the military-industrial complex, agriculture, science and material supply spheres, and provides for specific cooperation between individual businesses and areas in Moscow and Kharkov oblasts.

The agreement was reached during a visit by a Russian delegation to Kharkov oblast 9-10 December, which included Anatoliy Tyazhlov, head of the Moscow oblast administration. [passage omitted]

Crimea, Moscow Sign Cooperation Agreements

MK1012134394 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Pilat under the "Visit" rubric: "Crimea Republic Delegation in Moscow. Simferopol and Moscow Will Cooperate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Moscow, a Republic of Crimea government delegation led by Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk has agreed on cooperation between the Russian Federation and Crimea in the fields of economy, trade, culture, finance, science, and education. Plans calls for the setting up of a joint trading house in the coming months. The Bank of Russia was ordered to set up direct correspondent links with the Republican Bank of Crimea, to introduce clearing settlements for reciprocally delivered goods. It was deemed necessary to consider as soon as possible the question of restoring ferry service across Kerch Strait, and on the construction across the strait a transport bridge also carrying gas and water pipelines, power lines, and other communication lines. There are also plans to build and jointly run a railroad between Yevpatoriya and Chernomorskoye. Questions are also being solved on helping Crimea with electricity supplies.

Anatoliy Franchuk met with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. A protocol was signed on socioeconomic cooperation between Moscow and the Republic of Crimea.

National Affairs

Moroz Urges Kuchma To Withdraw Power Bill

LD0912210694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1920 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Svitlana Dorosh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev—Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz met President Leonid Kuchma on 9th December to propose a fundamentally new solution to the situation following the introduction of the draft law "On state power and self-government in Ukraine", which is widely believed unlikely to receive majority support in parliament, UNIAN has learned from reliable sources close to the presidential administration.

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Oleksandr Moroz asked Leonid Kuchma to withdraw the draft law on power, replacing it with a joint Moroz-Kuchma draft law. The new draft would propose that all economic reform legislation is passed at parliament presidium meetings rather than parliament session, assuming the force of decree thereafter. According to Moroz' proposal, this procedure would be introduced for one year.

The same sources said that the president had not replied to the offer, instructing his administration to study it.

Masol on Russian Debt, Current Issues

LD1012230694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol by correspondents Natalia Kondratyuk of Ukrainian television, Oleksiy Berezenko of Ukrainian radio and Leonid Samsonenko of the URYADOVYY KURIER newspaper in Kiev on 10 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] The Ukrainian delegation has just returned from Moscow where it was engaged in intensive negotiations and consultations. So the first question concerns Ukrainian-Russian relations. Yesterday, you signed on behalf of Ukraine the zero option agreement on the division of assets and liabilities of the former Soviet Union. Is it advantageous to Ukraine, and what do we stand to gain from it?

[Masol] Indeed, for several years now, including the past few months, we have been involved in negotiations with Russia on settling the issue concerning the debts and assets of the former Soviet Union. The negotiations were very complicated, involving many issues. However, indeed, yesterday we signed an agreement on the assets and liabilities of the former Soviet Union.

I think this aspect of our relations with Russia and all countries of the world was a matter of principle. I think that the signing of this agreement means that the unsettled issue involving 18 countries of the West and the socialist bloc, as well as the 600 banks of the world that once issued credits to the Soviet Union, was finally settled yesterday. Therefore, I think, it is a political issue. Ukraine is showing the world community that it is progressing toward market relations and is settling all the issues concerning the development of its economy at the present stage.

Second, what has Ukraine gained from this? I must say that Ukraine has won an important breathing space. Had we not signed this agreement, Ukraine would have to repay the debt and credit interest every year. This is about $800 million annually. Let us set this now against our inability to pay for gas and the difficult situation you are seeing today. We have already felt some tremors, with Russia unwilling to provide gas on credit any more. Having signed the agreement, we have released $800 million that we did not have in the first place for our businesses to work more productively. Let us take it as an extra $800 million a year that Ukraine does not have to lose any more in debt repayments. Had we not signed this agreement we would have had to pay about $1.5 billion for 1992, 1993, and 1994, and $800 million every year starting 1995 for about 10 or more years, for the debts of the former Soviet Union.

There is a lot of speculation on this issue, but let anyone who objects offer something else. Why have we not been resolving this issue for three years? Are there alternatives? I think this issue was settled yesterday in the hope that Ukraine would get a little financial breathing space. Someone might think that Nicaragua, Cuba, or Mongolia would pay their debts to us, but I think it is not to be expected. As for the assets of the former Soviet Union, there are many in these countries. To regain some would take a lot of expense. We would need to hire auditors who would have to work for several more years. Meanwhile, the other countries would start demanding the repayment of the former Soviet Union debts. This would make Ukraine's relations with Russia and the West very difficult.

[Correspondent] Vitaliy Andriyovych, apart from the Ukrainian- Russian negotiations, our delegation in Moscow attended the meeting of the CIS council of heads of government. What were the main problems it managed to solve? Are you pleased with the outcome of the meeting?

[Masol] On the whole, I am pleased with the fact that all heads of government and delegates to the meeting tried to find common ground. I think we succeeded. About 21 agreements were signed, some of which Ukraine was not a part. The ones that Ukraine did sign concerned, first of all, a common customs concept. There are many issues today that require a common customs law to enable our businesses to work and communicate with those in other countries. That is why the issue of a customs law is among the most important ones settled at the meeting. It will be finally settled at the meeting of heads of state.

The second issue that was resolved was the 50th anniversary of the great victory [in World War II]. This involves aid benefits, awards, and the funding of the celebrations.

Another range of issues includes air space, on which Ukraine signed two agreements, and railways, because a lot of cargo is shipped from Ukraine to other countries and the other way around. These issues had been unsettled thus far; that is why it was decided to sign this agreement. It was also decided to set up a common tariff scheme for shipments because each state today sets its own tariff increases for joint cargo shipments, so we agreed to work out a common tariff scheme during 1995.

The most interesting and important issue that was resolved, in my opinion, was that of machine-building. We signed an agreement on the development of component delivery for machine-building. The main aspect of this issue is that all components that are to be supplied to

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Ukraine and from Ukraine to other countries will be exempted from value-added tax and excise duty to stimulate businesses to develop in a common economic area.

On the whole, it was a very productive and interesting meeting.

[Correspondent] You just came from an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers, which examined one of the most urgent problems of today—the supply of fuel and power to the national economy and the population. President Leonid Kuchma, who was present at the meeting, described the situation in the sector as catastrophic. Can you assure our people that they will more or less survive the winter?

[Masol] First, the situation is such as you described. Second, the problem today is that we need to pay for power, gas, and other fuel supplies. We somehow became accustomed over the years to the fact that everything came to us free of charge. However, everything has to be paid for. That is why the Cabinet of Ministers discussed payments for fuel. Unfortunately, many company managers and ministers are not working very hard on this problem. That is why we had a very tough and critical discussion on the issue. The president did have many unpleasant words to say to ministers and heads of departments and committees, and he reprimanded some of the ministers for the delays in payments for fuel supplies. Therefore, I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to the entire population of our country and to managers of state and commercial companies. Regular payments for gas are the main problem today. You will do better to withhold some bonus payments or something else and pay for gas instead. Nobody will supply us with gas free of charge any more. If we do not pay in December for the gas and power supplied to this country, we may cause production in Ukraine to halt entirely. This means that people will be left without pay, without any means of a livelihood. It is a difficult issue, but not a hopeless one. The government and the president are taking appropriate measures to resolve it. I will stress again, however, that the main issue today is payment for fuel. Nobody will get anything for free now. We are in a market economy, and company managers who are not paying for fuel and gas supplies must be held responsible. It is their responsibility and nobody else's. The state only pays for social facilities, such as hospitals. The first to pay must be regional managers.

[Correspondent] Finally, one more brief question related to the first one. Apart from the zero option, what other documents did Ukraine prepare to sign with Russia, and at what stage are they today? I mean Soviet property abroad and the restructuring of Ukraine's debt.

[Masol] True, a few other issues were resolved in Moscow with regard to our delegation's further work on the settlement of Ukraine's debts to Russia made during Ukraine's withdrawal from the ruble zone. This is about $2.7 billion that Ukraine received in credits during [words indistinct]. We agreed in principle that this issue would be settled, and an agreement is being drawn up to be signed in the near future.

We also signed an agreement under which Ukraine will receive some property for its diplomatic and consular missions, so far in 15 countries, and additional talks will be held on further property agreements for our diplomatic missions abroad. We also agreed that our delegations would meet to sign [word indistinct] and a political agreement on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. Our delegations will meet on 13-14 December in Kiev and then in Moscow. We also agreed on the preparation of an agreement on trade and economic relations with Russia, on further gas supplies to Ukraine in 1995, on our debts [words indistinct], and a few other issues. Thus, we have embarked on productive talks about our economic relations with Russia.

KPU Opposes Kuchma's 'Capitalization' Program

WS0912143794 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 6 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Volodymyr Pronin: "Ukraine's Communists Make a Statement on Their Opposition to Leonid Kuchma's 'New Course'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint plenary session of the Central Committee and the Central Coordinative Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine [KPU], which was held in Kiev, decided to convene the next party congress in March 1995.

The plenum discussed the issue of the party's position on the concept of the socioeconomic and political development, which was proposed, and is being conducted by President Leonid Kuchma.

Petro Symonenko, first secretary of the KPU Central Committee, who presented a report on this issue, emphasized that the voters trusted L. Kuchma and voted to support him, in this way rejecting the policy conducted by his predecessor. However, his report on primary directions of reforms, which was made public on 11 October, indicates that L. Kuchma did not draw correct political conclusions from the work of the former administration.

The course toward capitalization is being conducted more actively. The president is seeking support from the Western bourgeoisie, which is completely uninterested in the revival of a strong Ukraine. Leonid Kuchma's most aggressive enemies during the recent elections—right-wing nationalist forces—have thus come to support him in full.

The so-called liberalization of prices alone has already thrown 95 percent of society beyond the limits of poverty.

Regarding the examined issue, the plenum resolved to oppose the Ukrainian president's course toward capitalization in all sectors of our society through liberalization

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of prices and foreign trade, as well as total privatization, including introduction of private ownership of land with the right to purchase and sell it.

At the same time, the Communists support the president's efforts aimed at saving our country from a disaster, increasing public production, and uprooting corruption and crime.

The plenum confirmed that although our country's new basic law must be passed by the Supreme Council, its most important provisions—those concerning the nature of our sociopolitical order, the admissibility of private ownership of land, and a form of the popular rule and state administration, including the presidential office and the state's name and symbols—should be put to an all- Ukrainian referendum.

The Communists call upon workers to unite to defend their interests and ownership of plants, factories, mines, and construction capacities against robbery in the form of privatization.

The plenum proposed to establish a state fund to materially support veterans, and appealed to all council chairmen and managers of enterprises, kolkhozes, and organizations to examine the situation of families of veterans and soldiers killed in action, and allocate specific targeted aid for them.

Leftists Call Kuchma 'Disloyal'

WS1212110094 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0047 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kharkov, Dec. 10—Three Kharkov leftist parties—Communists, Socialists, and Civil Congress—accused President Leonid Kuchma last week of reneging on his campaign pledges. "Kuchma proved to be a disloyal politician after giving up his campaign promises," said the joint statement.

The outcry came on the eve of the third anniversary of the so- called "Belovezh deal" which marked the break-up of the Soviet Union when Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and then-Ukrainian and Belarus Parliament Speakers Leonid Kravchuk and Stanislav Shuskevich affixed their signatures to "the USSR-disbanding" agreement.

The departure of Kuchma from his previous policies will trigger a political confrontation and split Ukraine into belligerent camps between the Russian-speaking East and Ukrainian-speaking West, according to the statement.

About 85 percent of eastern Ukrainian voters voted for Kuchma in July.

Pynzenyk Sees 'No Reason' To Delay Payments

LD0912224994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1920 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Ukraine has no reason to delay payments for fuel, said Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk at a meeting of the Supreme Council presidium on 9th December. He said that current fuel supplies cost $35-$40 million a week, while Ukraine's National Bank had $420 million in reserve.

Pynzenyk said that the consumer price index in November stood at 172.3, with food prices increasing by 110 percent and other prices by 50 percent.

Food prices rose by 99 percent between 2 November and 6 December, and other prices by 75.3 percent. Food was the most expensive in Kiev, Kharkov, and Donetsk oblast, and the cheapest in Odessa, Nikolayev and Ivano-Frankovsk oblasts.

He said that price rises were less steep in those regions where price liberalization had been carried out in full. Inspections were underway at food depots in Kiev and a few other oblast capitals for price abuse. The deputy premier said that criminal proceedings were about to be launched in the case of a recent purchase of 12 tonnes of sausage in Krasnyy Khutor area in Kiev.

Pynzenyk said that the government would soon pay the inflation increment for December social benefits. Such index-linked increments will be now paid automatically, he said.

Kuchma, Cabinet on Energy Crisis, 'Negligence'

LD1012235594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1618 GMT 10 Dec 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 10 Dec—A meeting of Ukraine's cabinet chaired by President Leonid Kuchma today discussed ways out of the energy crisis for the 1994-95 winter period. The meeting noted that the state of fuel and energy supplies to the economy and the population has become critical.

Alongside objective reasons for such a state of affairs one of the main factors is an attitude of negligence on the part of heads of various ministries and departments towards meeting the requirements of the appropriate presidential decree and of government decisions. Specifically, the State Committee for Resources and the State Committee for Oil and Gas failed to ensure delivery of 13,200 million cubic metres of gas and 1,200,000 tonnes of oil to Ukraine, the Ministry of the Coal Industry failed to ensure provision of 28,600,000 tonnes of coal over the first 11 months of the year, and the Ministry of Energy failed to lay in the specified reserves of coal and fuel oil.

The meeting recorded that intergovernmental agreements for oil and gas supplies between Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan are being fulfilled in a highly unsatisfactory way, and that as a consequence indebtedness to those countries is increasing, supplies of

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natural gas are being cut and oil and petroleum products are not being received in the agreed quantities.

The meeting drew up specific proposals to correct this state of affairs.

Home Power Supply Cut in Crimea, Industry Next

WS1212104494 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0303 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Dec. 8—Crimea is facing immediate critical energy problems that have already forced the government to cut electrical supplies to some homes and may affect the area's large industrial enterprises next. The problem is so serious that even medical and education institutions are now being regularly cut off from electricity supplies.

If Crimea fails to pay its energy bill within 10 days, industrial electricity cuts will be unavoidable, resulting in lost production and revenues, said Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Arkadiy Demidenko at a Thursday press conference. In the meantime, he said various Crimean residential areas have had their electricity cut to keep the peninsula's enterprises running.

"There is no shortage of either natural gas or electricity, but there is a severe shortage of funds," said Demidenko. Crimea's natural gas debt to the KharkivGas concern, the area's principal supplier, totals nearly US$10 million.

Demidenko said Crimea is not capable of meeting its own energy needs and currently produces only about 7 percent of the energy it consumes. Over the past 11 months, Crimean electricity consumption totaled 6 billion kilowatt hours, while the figure for all of 1993 was 8.6 billion kilowatt hours.

A Crimean Government delegation currently in Moscow reportedly reached an agreement with the Russian Government to provide 130 megawatts of electricity to Crimea beginning in January.

Demidenko said the energy sector problem is compounded by a constant "brain drain" of energy specialists from Crimea to Russia, where wages are up to 1,000 percent higher.

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Belarus

Lukashenka on State Power Reform, Economics

WS0912153094 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka at a session of the Vitebsk Oblast Council on 30 November: "From a Soviet to a Presidential Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed deputies to the Vitebsk Oblast Council! Esteemed Audience!

Unfortunately, we are conducting this meeting in a strained political and economic situation. First, the state power reform, whose main directions were specified by the new Belarusian Constitution, has not been completed. We still have not transferred to a presidential republic. In spite of his status as a state and executive power leader, the president still encounters massive resistance on the part of various political forces, including, unfortunately, the Supreme Soviet. Our opponents refuse to make a logical conclusion based on the choice that people made during the presidential election: "A peaceful popular revolution has taken place, and it is aimed against the old system of state government." This revolution, conducted by evolutionary means, ensured that representatives of a new political generation who have a better feel for the expectations of their electorate came to power.

Of course, all of you are familiar with the process of creating a new system of executive power intended to implement and drive home the ideas of our "velvet revolution" in July. The first step in this direction became the Law "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Belarusian Law 'On Local Self-Government and Local Economies.'" It was adopted by the Supreme Soviet in accordance with the president's constitutional right for legislative initiative. The people called this legislation the law on the president's vertical.

One could assume that all conditions for good work are in place. In the meantime, however, a group of legislative deputies, some of whom voted in favor of the law, called for the Constitutional Court to declare this law invalid and unconstitutional. The Court set the date for hearings on this case for 5 December! The reasons behind this affair are only too obvious: to disrupt the creation of the presidential vertical chain of power, and to stall at any price the reform of local self-government bodies. Unfortunately, the Constitutional Court from the very beginning took sides with those deputies, and it took the president's harsh appearance on television to change the situation.

This resembles political games on the brink of an abyss. Yes, the adopted law may not be in line with the acts that have already been passed. This, however, does not mean that the president has a selective approach to the current legislation. I stand, as I always have, for superiority of the law and for legal order in society. I will be a guarantor of lawfulness. At the same time, as president, I will not allow certain politicians to take advantage of several imperfect legislative acts. The Constitution should be superior to all laws enacted before it came into effect.

However, not only the Constitution calls for creating the presidential power system in the regions. Political games around the executive power vertical are even more irrelevant when confronted with the position of the people.

Of course, I am talking here about economics in the first place. As is known, the president and the government adopted a program intended to deliver the Belarusian economy out of a crisis. The measures being currently adopted to correct the monetary and financial policies, and to install order and discipline are beginning to produce the first, if barely noticeable, solid results. They include budget relief thanks to price liberalization and streamlining the apparatus. Positive signs have been observed in the economy over the past three months. Economic figures reported for May, June, and July, provide grounds for talking about stabilization and a slight improvement. Figures for the corresponding period of last year allow us to talk about the slowing down of the production drop. On the other hand, the "microscopic" positive achievements cannot change the extremely complex economic situation. It is also very difficult in the hinterland, including Vitebsk Oblast.

Vitebsk Oblast reported the second largest, after Homel Oblast, drop in production and efficiency of work. Over the past three years, the volume of production shrank by 37 percent, compared to the national average of 19 percent. Over the past 10 months of this year, industrial production dropped 25 percent, compared to 24 percent throughout the country.

The oblast also experienced one of the sharpest decreases of work efficiency in the industry. While the national figure for the decrease is 11 percent for the past three years, the oblast's figure is 30 percent for the same period, compared to 18.5 and 18.4 percent, respectively, for the past 10 months.

The agricultural sector is of particular concern. Vitebsk Oblast produced 67,300 rubles' [R] worth of agricultural products in 1993 for every 100 hectares of arable land—a 20-percent drop compared to the national results, and a 50-percent drop compared to Brest and Hrodno Oblasts. The worst situation is in meat and dairy production, which fell by 33.8 and 39.5 percent, respectively, in 1993 compared with 1990. At the same time, the pace at which meat production declined in the oblast was higher than the national one.

Of course, the landslide drop in meat and dairy production could be to some extent explained by mistakes of the previous leadership. Under the current procurement prices, their production has become simply unprofitable, bringing meager profits at best. This, however, hardly

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explains the drastic drop in productivity in the Republic's cattle-breeding complex.

A study of the use of material resources in agricultural production revealed excessive material and energy consumption, which makes local agricultural products uncompetitive even on the domestic market. As a result, production costs of potatoes, flax, and the main cattle-breeding products are the highest in the Republic. For example, national figures reflecting production costs for crops, potatoes, and flax are lower by 7.7, 21.7, and 10 percent, respectively, than those for the oblast. This is the main cause of the low profitability of enterprises whose number is growing [as published] every year. Their number quadrupled since 1993.

Policies conducted by the oblast leadership have a negative effect on the development of farms. Last year, for example, 36 farms went bankrupt. Lack of consistent policies in this sphere on the part of the oblast executive committee leads to a situation where farms often fold their activities just when they receive budget funds intended to support them at the initial stage. For example, farmer Panevin from Rasonski Rayon had a road paved to his farm in 1993. This year, the executive committee liquidated his business on the grounds that it had not launched production activities. Likewise, farmer Syameshina from Vitebsk Rayon received funds for installation of electricity. But she has not started any kind of production until now.

I would like to ask people from the rayon and oblast executive committees: On what grounds did they give money to those mythical farmers? Or, maybe the oblast officials want to solve their personal problems—such as building their own dachas—using assistance to farmers as a disguise?

The oblast's poor economic performance is a result of not only the "mistakes of the leadership," with which everyone justifies their sins. Much depends on the work of the local leadership, its professionalism, and the working style of the oblast executive committee. Analysis of the oblast's economy for the past several years until now showed that no coherent and concrete economic policy was ever conducted in Vitebsk Oblast.

Large enterprises and the processing industry found themselves on thin ice. If any measures were ever undertaken by the oblast leaders, they were nothing more than sweeping trash under the rug. This is why the oblast structures could not affect socioeconomic, let alone political, processes under way in the hinterland.

Also, I would like to touch upon such an acute problem as housing. Faced with ever-shrinking housing construction, the power should display maximum attention in distributing every square meter of apartments. Our electorate, which consists of ordinary people, cannot afford to buy an apartment or to build houses.

Meanwhile, an inspection conducted at the Vitebsk City Council and the Vitebsk District Council revealed that dozens of apartments were allocated in violation of the present legislation, and the rights of citizens who have been standing in line for housing for years. At the same time, these violations were largely caused by a seemingly innocuous fact—the Vitebsk City Council approved the personnel list for the executive committee. According to this decision, the department for housing distribution and planning at the city executive committee became a self-supporting unit, which resulted in the unlawful distribution of housing and a lack of control over the implementation of housing legislation. Worse, this legislation was violated to benefit certain high-ranking officials. I was most indignant about the decision to give an apartment to the daughter of an [official] Pankrataw, the chief of the visa department at the oblast internal affairs administration. Legally, Pankrataw had no right to apply for additional living space. The apartment was given to his daughter, who studies at the Vitebsk Technological Institute and, of course, has nothing to do with the administration. However, the documents sent by the administration to the executive committee said that Pankrataw's daughter had been waiting in line for an apartment since she was seven years old. It is difficult to believe that the city and oblast authorities had no idea about this, and many other violations of this kind. All evidence regarding the illegal distribution of housing was submitted to the Vitebsk Oblast General Prosecutor's Office, and criminal proceedings were instigated. However, the Vitebsk Oblast Prosecutor Shakhmetayev reported on 3 September on violations of the housing law to the city council, and he is still waiting for a response.

As a result of an inspection conducted in retail stores in Vitebsk Oblast, serious violations of trade regulations and sanitary conditions were revealed. The trade department at the city executive council has virtually no control over the implementation of basic retail trade regulations. After all, retail trade is the face of the power—particularly in Vitebsk, the largest cultural center.

I am far from thinking that these and many others shortcomings should be blamed on one person only—even if it is the executive power leader in the oblast. Emphasis should be placed on the system of work, which may have been good in the old days, but proved unacceptable today. I would least of all want this report to be viewed as personal criticism of Uldzimir Pantsyaleyevich Kulakov, whom I respect very much. I believe that the situation in the oblast could have been even worse if it had not been for his organizational skills and experience. But the present time requires new cadre—maybe with less experience, but not burdened so much by the past. I hope that while holding the position of oblast council chairman, Uladzimir Pantsyaleyevich will be a good adviser to the new oblast executive council chairman.

At the same time, I believe that a new chairman of the oblast executive committee should have some work experience in the power structures. He will have to

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assume a heavy burden, which will grow even heavier as we will be advancing our economic reforms. This is why, considering candidacies for chairman of the oblast executive committee to be examined at your session, I selected Uladzimir Pawlavich Andreychanka, who is deputy chairman of the Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee.

I think that there is no need to introduce Uladzimir Andreychanka, whose career developed literary before your eyes. It is by no coincidence that he was elected deputy to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. His long-standing work colleagues, and simple people who know him personally all concur in the opinion that he is a responsible, competent, industrious, and exacting man, capable of ensuring support for the oblast executive committee in the current difficult situation. However, I will not conceal the fact that talking with Uladzimir Pawlavich, I said that the trust that the president has for him—and I hope you will have it, too—is a credit that he will have to repay by working hard. The deputy chairman of the oblast executive committee, who was in charge of the agricultural complex, has as much responsibility for agriculture as the chairman. On the other hand, the experience of my work with Uladzimir Pawlavich at the Supreme Soviet convinced me that he sincerely wants the well-being of our people, and is ready to work and correct his own and other people's mistakes that were made due to the imperfectness of our legislation and the lack of a coherent agricultural policy.

Esteemed Comrades! This is the first session of the oblast council, at which the first Belarusian president takes advantage of his legal right to appoint leaders of the local executive power bodies. I understand that my responsibility for this move is no smaller than that of the future chairman of the oblast executive committee. This is why the Regulations of Procedures for Appointing Heads of the Executive Power Bodies, which I approved, pointed to the need for an open discussion and a vote on the candidacy proposed by the president. I hope that the discussion will be very sincere. Let me tell you sincerely that I count on your support. Unity of central and local government institutions is a precondition for the normal progression of economic transformations in Belarus.

Before I step down from this rostrum and you proceed to examine the candidacy for chairman of the oblast executive committee proposed by the president, I would like once again to thank Uladzimir Pantsyaleyevich Kulakov for his long-term work at the executive power bodies, and wish him good health and the continuation of his work as chairman of the oblast council.

Unions Protest Price Rises, 'Impoverishment'

LD1112121194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0500 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Public reaction to the latest price rises was not slow in coming. The leadership of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus has called on its members to carry out protest actions against the mass impoverishment of people. The minimum wage has become economically meaningless, it says in the statement by the federation. Today it covers less than 10 percent of the minimum consumer budget. The leadership of the trade unions has demanded that the government of the republic implement the proposals of the trade unions and take specific measures to correct the economic course in favour of social protection of the working people.

Moldova

Parliament Passes Laws on Local Authorities, Elections

AU0912190894 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1940 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 9/12/1994—Wednesday night [7 December], the Parliament passed three laws at the second reading, that in recent time caused hot debates between the ruling majority and the opposition. These are the laws "On Administrative-Territorial Set-Up"; "On Local Self-Government"; and "On Local Elections."

In defiance of the parliamentary opposition's suggestions to reduce the administrative-territorial units in Moldova to seven districts, the new law preserved the currently existing 40 areas and seven republican-subordination cities. And present power bodies in localities suffered practically no changes.

A particular discontent of the opposition was caused by the Law on Local Elections, including the provision on the principles of establishing electoral commissions, of drawing-up results, and calculation of votes.

The opposition strongly criticized an article stipulating the order of appointing local majors and area executive committee chairmen. The article reads that a candidate, who is one of the local deputies, is proposed by the Government, and in case he (she) is voted for by the local council, his candidacy is then finally approved by the president.

If the first candidature finds no support among the deputies, the Government suggests another candidate in 15 days' time. In case the second candidate is also declined by the local council, then the mayor or the executive committee chairman is appointed by the president within 10 days thereafter on the government's proposal and "with an account of the political coloring of the local council."

The opposition maintains that this provision contradicts to two article in the Constitution, and insisted to apply to the Supreme Court for an expertise. However, the parliamentary majority declined their suggestion.

The adoption of these laws signifies that Moldova is juridically ready for local elections. After Christmas

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holidays, the legislature is planning to discuss the beginning of the elections, which may be held already in March or April.

Many political parties, discontented with the legislation, are seriously considering their possible boycott of the elections.

Popular Front Criticizes Laws

AU0912190994 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1940 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 9/12/1994—The new laws on local power bodies, administrative-territorial set-up, and local election are aimed at preserving the ruling party's power, Valentin Dovganiuk, chairman of the parliamentary Popular Front [FPCD] Faction, said.

He pointed out at today's news conference that the preservation of the still existing Soviet-era territorial set-up pursued the aim of preserving the political-economic basis of the ruling party.

"The law on local elections kills even the very thought of a possibility to win local elections by any other party but the ruling one—in whatever locality. With this law the Agrarian Democratic Party [PDAM] is raising its party doctrine to the rank of state ideology," Dovganiuk stressed.

Answering a question about a possible boycott of local elections by the Popular Front, its leader Iurie Rosca said it was premature to speak about that yet. "We have been using generally accepted methods of political struggle—freedom of the press, rallies, demonstrations. However, all the freedoms have been drastically restricted by the PDAM. Elections are the highest democratic form of political struggle, but the new law makes them a fiction. Thus, the opposition found itself in a very complicated situation," Rosca said.

Snegur on Support for Euoprean Policy on Open Borders

LD0912184794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has said that his republic supported the policy of European organizations intended to create transparent borders on the continent. In an interview with a group of journalists in Kishinev [Chisinau], he pointed out that this explained Moldova's seeking admittance to the Council of Europe in 1995 and its recent signing of a partnership and cooperation agreement with the E.U.

Asked to comment on the Transdniester settlement, Snegur said that a certain amount of progress had been made. He was confident that Moldova would show restraint in the case of provocations or clashes.

Snegur emphasized that a permanent mission of the C.S.C.E. promoted the resolution of conflicts in the republic.

Commenting on Moldova's relations with Rumania, Snegur said that "some statements of political parties from both sides of the river Prut cannot be regarded as state policy." He pointed out that at his recent meeting with Rumanian President Ion Iliescu neither of them concluded that the relations between the two countries had cooled down, as reported by the media.

Chisinau Reveals Republic's Foreign Debt

LD1112143094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau December 11 TASS - The Moldovan Government said on Sunday [11 December] that the Republic's foreign debt is about 300 million U.S. dollars.

The West has granted Moldova 505.81 million U.S. dollars in credits since it declared independence in August 1991. Of that sum, the government said it has assumed responsibility for 438.71 million dollars.

However, vice-prime minister Ion Gutu, who is in charge of finances in the Moldovan Government, said that the republic has received only 278.4 million dollars so far. He explained that there is a certain "ceiling" of debts, which should not exceed 20 per cent of Moldova's gross national product. In 1995 the republic's GNP is expected to reach 7.9 billion leis (about 1.9 billion U.S. dollars).

Among Moldavia's major creditors are the International Monetary Fund, Russia, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Union and the United States.

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Kazakhstan

Nazaarbayev Praises CSCE Security Guarantees

LD0912202794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has described the memorandum on security guarantees to the republic from the U.S., U.K. and Russia recently signed at the C.S.C.E. Budapest summit as an important historical event. He made this statement at a solemn assembly devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Al-Farabi National University in Almaty Friday [9 December].

Kazakhstan lays neither territorial, nor border, nor political claims on any country, Nazarbayev pointed out. "The only thing we want is calm inside the country and outside it," he said. Nazarbayev added that Kazakhstan was friendly towards all of its neighbors and intended to be an honest partner with everyone. "The main goal of today is to preserve the country's sovereignty," he added.

"Signing the non-proliferation treaty, operations on sale and forwarding of high-enriched uranium to the U.S. and other events have led to having such a document which was finally signed in Budapest," Nazarbayev said.

Cost of U.S. Uranium Export Considered

MM0912124594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Dec 94 Weekend Edition p 2

[Report by Mikhail Shchipanov: "How Much Did the 'Uranium Run' Cost?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This question is of interest to many people, but the U.S. authorities, who urgently took a load of uranium out of Kazakhstan, are keeping quiet.

A traditional question for a market society arose: What did such an operation cost the Americans? It was here that some misunderstandings arose. It turned out that the phrase from the song "I paid a considerable price" comes under the "interstate secrets" heading. It came to light that it was Alma-Ata [Almaty], above all, that did not want excessive publicity for the size of the deal. Since modesty does not always embellish relations between states, many U.S. analysts engaged in a bit of folk fortune telling in this regard. Informed journalists among those who are welcome behind the scenes of big-league politics extracted the first figure from their conversations with unnamed big shots—the transfer itself cost the U.S. taxpayer $3 million.

Here the most competent opinions diverged sharply. In the opinion of some, the Kazakhstani uranium from the motherland's Soviet storehouses cost [potyanul na] $500 million, while others who talked with the most knowledgeable specialists who are granted access came up with a figure of just $300 million.

True, there is another, no less intriguing nuance. Was all the uranium that was hastily sent over the ocean really enriched, as is widely claimed? Considerable doubts about this exist in Moscow: It is said that Kazakhstan could not have had at its disposal so much raw material for the creation of a most terrible weapon. Therefore Washington began to be troubled by rumors that far from all the exported uranium was high-grade: No more than 0.5 percent was said to be enriched. If this is so, the cost of the Kazakhstani uranium that is actually suitable for military purposes changes drastically, soaring upward.

Moscow Deprives Many of Republican TV Channnel

LD1112093994 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the inhabitants of many of the republic's regions are not watching today's programs. Samat (Iskakov), the presidential adviser of the Kazakhstan Republican Television and Radio Corporation on communication issues, explains.

[Begin (Iskakov) recording] At 2330 yesterday, 9 December, the Gorizont satellite was disconnected without warning, without agreement, and without explanation of the reason to the republican corporation. This disconnection was carried out by the State Enterprise of Space Communications in Moscow, Russia.

At the present time 25 percent of Kazakhstan's population have been deprived of the first republican national channel because of the satellite's disconnection. We contacted the duty operator at the State Enterprise of Space Communications in Moscow. He informed us that the disconnection was done in accordance with an instruction from Mr. (Kiyashev), the director of the State Enterprise of Space Communications, without explanation. The duty operator also informed us that there is no question of technical defects in the satellite. This extraordinary situation, when 25 percent of Kazakhstan's population are deprived of watching national broadcasts on the instruction of a director in Moscow, has once again shown that Kazakhstan's communication network for television and radio broadcasts requires serious reconstruction and modernization. Kazakhstan's technical networks require full independence to ensure genuine state sovereignty. [end recording]

Gas Debt to Uzbekistan Discussed

LD0912134994 Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 7 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A regular meeting of the presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Nigmatzhan Isingarin examined trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, the possibilities of repaying their debts to each other, and carrying out mutual payments connected with gas and electricity supplies.

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The heads of the Ministry of the Oil and Gas Industry, the state enterprise Zhetysugaz, the Alaugaz company, and the heads of administrations of south Kazakhstan and Zhambyl regions delivered progress reports.

As was noted at the meeting, trade and economic cooperation between these neighboring countries was in Kazakhstan's favor in 1992-1993: Uzbekistan's debt to Kazakhstan was almost $96 million and Kyrgyzstan's $31.5 million. But as is accepted between good neighbors, the debts were mutually regulated in accordance with inter-governmental agreements and only 3 million of Uzbekistan's debt was left.

This year the situation changed acutely. Kazakhstan literally fell into a pit of debt from which it will be necessary to climb out with great difficulty and effort. Kazakhstan has fallen into this situation thanks to Kadyr Baykenov, the former minister of power and fuel, who agreed to pay $84 per thousand cubic meters of Uzbek natural gas. At that time the average price in the CIS countries was $50 dollars and the world price, the highest in Europe was 70.

The second signature on the contract belongs to Srym Narembayev, director of Zhetysugaz which is the main contract holder. It is through this state enterprise that settlements with Uzbekistan are made, including clearing settlements. It also transports oil by pipeline to south Kazakhstan, Zhambyl and Almaty regions and the city of Almaty. [passage omitted]

As Isingarin said, we should determine precisely our trade and economic relations with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and adopt with them framework agreements for next year, where prices at the level of the Interstate Economic Union should be set. He stressed that in this issue there are many of our own internal shortcomings, which have mounted up over a long time. They must be eliminated.

The reports and answers of S. Narymbayev, director of the state enterprise Zhetysugaz, to the questions from Viktor Begin, the first deputy minister of the oil and gas industry, highlighted the helplessness and bad management of these departments and their inability to watch over state interests. Not having a clear policy and an accurate accounting system for gas, the ministry let things slide and did not ensure supervision over the activities of subordinated management structures. Such a "strategy" brought industrial enterprises to their knees before prices for gas, which they could not pay. Many of them have ceased to manufacture the products with which they used to pay Uzbekistan.

The meeting said that it is quite possible to break out of this cycle. [passage omitted]

The presidium adopted some specific decisions on the issues under consideration. In particular, the rights of the main payer for Uzbek gas and of the holder of clearing payments in the current and next year were passed to the Alaugaz company. Zhetysugaz will now only carry out transport functions. The Ministries of Economy, Industry, and Trade, and the administrations of south Kazakhstan and Zhambyl regions were instructed to work out proposals on setting up a transnational company with Uzbekistan, as well as to resolve the issue of bringing Zhambyl state district power station into operation. [passage omitted]

Uzbekistan Resumes Gas Supplies

LD1212102594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Alma Ata [Almaty] December 12 TASS—Uzbekistan has resumed natural gas supplies to Kazakhstan which owes it 130 million US dollars for the fuel and Kazakhstan is repaying the debt in kind.

10 days ago Uzbekistan cut off the deliveries urging the neighbouring republic to repay the debt. The problem was settled at government talks between the two Central Asian republics.

Kazakhstan is now shipping grain, meat and other agricultural produce as debt repayment to Uzbekistan.

Finance Minister Reports Poor Budget Results

LD0912210894 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference was held at the Ministry of Finance today. Finance Minister Aleksandr Pavlov informed journalists about the state of the national budget this year and the proposed calculations for forming the state treasury next year.

In the first nine months the state budget pulled in revenues of only 40.3 percent of the target for the year. A heavy burden for the budget's revenue was created by the slump in production, nonpayment by electricity consumers, the lack of funds endemic in the oil and engineering industries, and the non-arrival of money from privatization and from the Baykonur lease.

Thirty-two percent of the expenditure provided for in the budget was actually spent. The national economy, the social sector, science and defense received less than half of the help they expected.

Answering journalists' questions about the state of the 1994 adjusted budget and the prospects for next year, the minister said that much would depend on decisions taken by the Supreme Council. The drafts have been submitted to parliament and await debate by its members. All in all, the minister views the 1995 budget as being honest in the extreme, in other words tough.

Kyrgyzstan

Prime Minister Pays Official Visit to London

LD1112174394 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of the foreign minister of Great Britain, Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Roza

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Otunbayeva is currently paying an official visit to London. During her visit, she will have a meeting with the leaders of the Foreign Ministry and of the government of Great Britain, and be attending meetings at the EBRD, the headquarters of the Commonwealth States, Chatham House, and the University of London. It is expected that a number of important documents will be signed, including ones on investment and its protection and development; cooperation on culture, education, and sciences; an agreement on aviation, and a declaration on mutual cooperation between the two foreign ministries.

President Akayev Arrives in Islamabad

LD1012144894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi December 10 TASS—Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev arrived in Islamabad on a three-day official visit on Saturday [10 December] to hold talks with the Pakistani leaders.

Akayev will meet with Pakistani President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues, including the building of communications lines via Central Asia. The two sides are expected to sign a number of agreements on trade, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Joint Investment Group Set up With Russia

LD0912210494 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1838 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An accord on setting up the Roskyrgyzinvest industrial finance group has been reached between the Governments of Russia and Kyrgyzstan. Tasked with bilaterally [word indistinct] implementing the provisions of the agreement on setting up an economic union and on supplying credit and finance for industry and commerce, as well as with creating and promoting mixed international associations, it will be established by enterprises and organizations from both sides.

Fifty percent of equities in the Roskyrgyzinvest group will belong to enterprises and organizations of the Russian Federation, and the remaining 50 percent will belong to enterprises and organizations in our republic.

Furthermore, the group will play a positive role in forming the economic conditions to reduce migration of Russian speakers from Kyrgyzstan to Russia.

The republic's government has examined the draft agreement and adopted a resolution. The resolution says, in particular, that it will be the responsibility of the State Economics Committee, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the State Property Fund, and the Ministry of Justice, together with the the Kyrgyzinvestkholding company, to sign this agreement with the Government of the Russian Federation, and to carry out the preparatary work for the project.

Natural Gas Needs Met By Accord With Uzbeks

LD1012131794 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA in Russian 9 Dec 94 P 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 7 December talks were held in Tashkent on regulating mutual payments for natural gas supplied to Kyrgyzstan by Uzbekistan. First Deputy Prime Minister Almambek Matubraimov led the Kyrgyz government delegation.

A solution to the problem on the basis of mutually beneficial deliveries which suits both sides was found during the dialogue with Ismail Jurabekov, first deputy prime minister of Uzbekistan, as the government press service reported. Our natural gas needs (150,000 cubic metres an hour) will be fully met. The government of Kyrgyzstan undertook to supply industrial goods and agricultural produce worth $16-$17 million to Uzbekistan by the end of the year. The schedule of deliveries has already been worked out and approved.

Gas started to reach southern Kyrgyzstan on 7 December. The Northerners will have to wait for two or three days as the speed of the flow in the gas pipe is 20 km per hour and the distance is about 1,000 km from Gazli [the gas deposit] to Bishkek.

Today the danger of partial gas cuts in the private sectors of Bishkek, Kant, and Tokmak still exists. The threat to liquid glass flowing from the furnaces of the Tokmak sheet glass factory is still on the agenda. But the situation should be fully stabilized by 10 or 11 December. [passage omitted]

Akayev Gives Envoy to Belarus Additional Task

LD1112201094 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] By edict of Kyrgyz President Akayev, (Burmez Asharov), ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to Belarus, has been entrusted with additional duties of membership on the CIS Coordinating Consultative Committee.

Representative Appointed to Economic Union Committee

LD1112142694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] By the decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Iyan Eshimet Kishev has been released from his former post and appointed plenipotentiary representative of the Kyrgyz Republic in the collegium of the interstate economic committee of the Economic Union. The decree was signed by Askar Akayev.

Tajikistan

Tajik President To Attend ICO Summit in Casablanca

LD1112094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0732 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe December 11 TASS—President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan leaves for Casablanca (Morocco) on Sunday [11 December] to attend a meeting of the heads of state of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Tajik leader is to make a report on the socio-political and economic situation in the Republic. The Tajikistan authorities count on financial assistance from the OIC.

Russian Official Arrives; Meets Rakhmanov

LD1112100294 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Albert Chernyshev, the deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, arrived in Tajikistan yesterday [10 December].

Emomali Rakhmanov, the president of the republic, received Chernyshev. Both sides exchanged views on the regular round of the inter-Tajik talks, which will take place in Moscow.

The meeting was fruitful and interesting.

Concern Over Deteriorating Border Situation

LD0912151794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe December 9 TASS—Tajikistan's leadership is disturbed by tension built up by the armed opposition on the Tajik-Afghan border, a briefing was told today by Zafar Saidov, information department chief of the Tajik Foreign Ministry.

The truce agreement which came into force on October 20 has not been complied with so far, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Between October 20 and December 8, armed rebels breached the agreement more than 50 times. Rebel formations of various size made 34 attempts to cross the border. There were more than 20 shellings of border posts from the Afghan territory.

Terror of civilians continues in border-adjacent territories. Defence positions and arms stores have to be set up around border posts in several pamir regions and around the town of Khorog. Saidov said Tajik mojahedins had been concentrating in Tajikistan-adjacent Afghan provinces and causing trouble increasingly often.

The spokesman said some of Tajik opposition leaders were planning attacks on Tajik forces and Russian border guards in order to evoke backfire, which would derail the forthcoming forth round of Tajik talks and the Tehran ceasefire agreement.

The Tajik Foreign Ministry has called on rebel leaders to stop provoking moves on the border and comply with the truce. Tajik authorities hope that official Kabul and administrators of Afghan border provinces will see the ominous situation arising on the border and take measures to prevent hostile acts originating in the Afghan territory, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

General Baranov Cited on Afghan Border Violations

MK1012120094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 2

[NEGA report under the "Tajikistan" rubric: "Who Violates Cease-Fire Treaty. Deputy Chief of Russian Federation Border Troops Main Staff, Major General Aleksandr Baranov on Situation Along Tajik-Afghan Border"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Aleksandr Baranov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Border Troops Main Staff, has stated that latest reports in a number of mass media say that Russian border guards protecting the Tajik-Afghan border violate the temporary treaty on ceasing fire and stopping the other hostile actions along the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the country, signed in Tehran and extended in Islamabad during the inter-Tajik talks.

"These types of claims are groundless," Gen. Baranov stated. "The Russian border troops in the Republic of Tajikistan strictly and unswervingly abide by the treaty's provisions, something the representatives of various public and state organizations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, UN missions—journalists numbered among them—can repeatedly verify." "We have already said it," the general stressed, "and we note once more that the opposition has been and is violating the understandings reached, virtually from the first days the treaty went into effect." "There are instances where border posts, details of Russian, Kazakh, and Kirgiz [Kyrgyz] border troops come under fire from various types of arms. Armed groups bypassing checkpoints made repeated armed attempts to break through the Tajik-Afghan border from either side. The situation in the region continues to be tense, and now, according to just received information, armed groups of the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan Movement [IRTM] stationed on the territory of Gornyy Badakhshan are ready for armed actions against Russian border guards. Up to 400 fighters are concentrated in the area of the Kalaikhumb detachment alone on Afghanistan's territory."

The general stated that the accusations that Russian border troops were involved in illegal actions in detaining eight IRTM supporters on the territory of Darvaza Rayon of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast are equally groundless. Those people were detained as state border violators; they carried weapons and narcotics, offered armed resistance, and tried to get away from the border detachment. They were handed over to competent organs of the Republic of Tajikistan in line with the status of the Russian border troops

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presence in the Republic of Tajikistan and on the basis of Tajikistan's current legislation.

According to Gen. Baranov, the FPS [expansion uncertain] also is in the possession of documents about groups of Arab mercenaries taking part in armed clashes on the border. They include mining and demolition experts from Saudi Arabia.

FPS chiefs also have information that the IRTM armed forces active in the Badakhshan sector have been directed to carry out armed actions against subunits of the Russian border troops. Such actions are being prepared in a number of locations, including those to be carried out by field commander Abdula Khadi.

Russian Border Troops Attacked on Afghan Border

LD1112164994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1617 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 11 TASS—A Russian military convoy was attacked by a group of armed militants on the Afghan border in Tajikistan on Sunday [11 December].

The attack was carried out at 16:40 local time by a group of 50 armed militants from the Afghan village of Varia and Tajikistan.

According to preliminary reports, several Russian border guards were wounded in the ensuing shoot-out. The Russian military commanders in Tajikistan sent a reinforcement to the convoy, the press service of the Federal Border Administration told ITAR-TASS. The U.N. mission in Tajikistan has been informed about the incident.

The Federal Border Administration denounced the attack, saying that "the armed action against the Russian border troops is yet another confirmation that armed groupings operating in the (Gorno-) Badakhshan (Autonomous) Region are seeking to provoke fighting at all costs."

Drug Leader's Ties to Russian Border Guards Noted

LD1012211694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abduamon Ayembekov, one of the leaders of the Tajik drug mafia, known as Lesha the Hunchback, was killed on Friday [9 December] evening in Gorno-Badakhshan. Differing versions of his death are being suggested. Some suggest that the Islamic opposition, with whom he had close links, had an interest in seeing the drug trader dead. Others suspect the involvement of Tajik and Russian secret services in the killing.

Our correspondent reports that Lesha the Hunchback had close links not only with the local Tajik leadership, but also with highly-placed representatives of the Russian border troops.

People's Party Holds Constituent Conference

LD1012131494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The constituent conference of the People's Party of Tajikistan [Narodnaya Partiya Tajikistana] was held today in Dushanbe. Abdulmajid Dostiyev, the chairman of the organizational committee, the first deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Council, made a political report at the conference. The conference adopted the rules and program of the People's Party of Tajikistan. Dostiyev was elected chairman of the new Tajik political party. The executive committee of the party was confirmed and the members of this committee were elected.

Communists Expected To Win Parliamentary Election

LD0912201594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 9 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Candidatures to the new parliament will be nominated in Tajikistan December 25-January 10, 1995.

IF Note: In line with the law on elections to the new parliament passed by the Tajik parliament on December 1, registered political parties, local councils, as well as work collectives with 500 or more workers (collectives with fewer workers may unite to nominate one candidate) have the right to nominate candidates. These organizations may nominate no more than one candidate for each constituency. The election campaign is to close 45 days before the elections scheduled for February 26, 1995.

An independent anonymous observer told Interfax that functioning in Tajikistan are only two officially registered parties— the Communist Party and the Party of Economic and Social Renaissance. The two others—the People's Party and the Party of People's Unity and Accord (which had its constituent congress only on November 30—"IF") have not so far been registered in the Justice Ministry.

The observer believes that only the Communist Party (leader—Shodi Shabdolov) has real chances to be in the lead. He believes the Communist Party is able to win 100 percent of seats in parliament. However, for political reasons, it will yield 20-30 percent of seats to other parties.

IF Note: The Tajik Communist Party is part of the Union of communist parties (UCP—CPSU) uniting 17 parties and movements of the former Soviet Union. Political scientists believe that for the moment it is the strongest communist organization in the post-Soviet space. The Party managed to retain its influence in the

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republic. It incorporates over 70,000 people and has a concrete program and charter. During the singature-collecting campaign for uniting the revitalized Soviet Union, the Tajik Communist party managed to collect over 1.5 million signatures which is over 50 percent of the republic's electorate.

According to the expert, the celebration on December 4 of the Party's 70th anniversary indicates its great influence in Tajikistan. Taking part in the celebrations were delegations from 10 foreign countries, some CIS states and from Russia (including chairman of the UCP—CPSU, Oleg Sheinin). The celebrations cost at least 100 million rubles. The participation in the celebrations of representatives of official structures, believes the observer, indicates of the fact that the republic's leadership undoubtedly has "warm feelings" to the Party. It is also likely that the authorities "fear to a certain extent" the Party's authority.

The fact that the Communist Party did not lose its influence in the republic is explained by the expert in the following way. Firstly, having carried out the Party's purges (affecting mainly high Party structures), the Party leadership said that it got rid of the "corrupted elements." Secondly, over the two past years there were no party or movement in Tajikistan which could substitute the Communist Party in the political and social spheres. Of no small importance was the fact that the Party had initiated the movement for the revitalization of the Soviet Union which won the support of the majority of population in the republic.

The independent observer called "reasonable and politically faultless" the Party activities during the campaign for electing the president in the republic. Though Communists did not nominate a candidate for presidency, they backed whom they liked the best. The expert believes that the results of the elections could be described as the victory of the Communist Party since its member, Emomali Rakhmanov became president and Djamshed Karimov, who was appointed prime minister on December 2, is also a Communist (in 1989-1991 he was chairman of the Dushanbe city party committee—"IF") The observer sees the main force of the Party in the fact that it is inter-national in composition and is not divided regionally, which is very important for Tajikistan.

As to the second registered party — the Party of Economic and Political Renaissance (leader Mukhtar Bobоyev), it is early to speak about its active political stand. The Party has several thousand members, mainly businessmen, who do not enjoy high authority in the republic and have no experience of political struggle. The two other movements, the People's Party and the Party of Unity and Accord, cannot be put into account since they are not registered. However, believes the expert, even if they join the parliament election campaign, their chances are slim as compared with the Communist Party.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Meets With Russian Border Troops Commander

LD0912200394 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan received Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev, the commander in chief of the Border Troops of the Russian Federation. Matters relating to the joint protection of the southern CIS border and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border were discussed at the talks.

Areas for Trade Development Identified With ROK

LD1012132194 Tashkent BIZNES VESTNIK VOSTOKA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time, such a dignified delegation of South Korean businessmen, many of whom already had specific proposals on cooperation, met in our republic. They represented almost all the major companies of South Korea. There were meetings at the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic, ministries of different branches of industry and leading enterprises.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov received (?Ki Bum Yu), the head of the delegation, the chairman of the Korean-Uzbek committee on trade and economic cooperation, president of the Daewoo Corporation.

As a result of the talks, a memorandum on mutual cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Energy of South Korea was signed.

The Korean and Uzbek entrepreneurs talked about expanding cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of industry—priority in this was given to mechanical engineering—and developing trade relations during their Tashkent roundtable meeting, which journalists participated in too.

It was noted that today there are 20 Uzbek-Korean joint enterprises functioning in Uzbekistan. These are agricultural raw materials and cotton waste processing plants, radio and electronic engineering enterprises, and car assembly plants.

Trade relations are developing. Under 1993-1994 contracts Uzbekistan delivers cotton, though so far in small amounts, silk waste, and carbamide to Korea. We receive light industry products, steel sheets, television production lines, and parts and spare parts for car assembly. However, the goods turnover figure is not significant and this, as both sides agreed, does not correspond to the two countries possibilities.

According to the Korean businessmen, they lack reliable information about Uzbekistan and that is an obstacle for

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developing trade and economic relations between our countries. Transport issues are tackled slowly. The legal basis for economic relations is insufficiently developed.

Tashkent Tackles Drinking Water Supply Problems

LD1112122294 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 10 Dec 94 p 2

["Quenching Thirst—Will we be able to overcome the shortage of drinking water?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One of the most acute problems of our century—the shortage of drinking water—has affected many countries, if not most of them. It has affected our country too. The problem is especially bad in rural areas. This is the topic of our conversation with Bakhtiyar Nasyrov, the chairman of the board of the joint-stock investment company Obi Hayot [Source of Life].

[Correspondent] Bakhtiyar Khayrullayevich, what are the special features of the problem of supplying the Uzbek people with drinking water?

[Nasyrov] Above all it is the depletion and degradation of water sources, including underground waters, which play the main role in the supply of drinking water. Over the last 10 years the number of water sources of drinkable quality has decreased from 80 to 55, and the number of large underground water intakes from 271 to 115.

There are various reasons for this, including the continuing pollution of surface and underground waters with mineralized run-off waters from collectors and drainage systems that contain large quantities of chemical pesticides, and run-off waters from industry, stockbreeding, and communal facilities, as well as the disruption of the water regime of Syr-Darya and Amu-Darya River basins as the result of man's intense technological activities.

Four years ago, taking into account the burning problems of the day, the president of Uzbekistan issued a decree on improving the supply of drinking water and natural gas to the rural population of the country.

[Correspondent] In accordance with this, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted the state program where all tasks for supplying rural areas with drinking water are placed on your organization. Up to July this year you were the republican design and construction association Obi Hayot. Thus, you are a monopoly?

[Nasyrov] No, in fact, many organizations in Uzbekistan are tackling this matter. In particular, even cooperatives design, construct, and drill wells, not only without having the right to do it, but often even without the necessary permission and project plans and cost estimates. That is why we think that in order to protect underground waters and coordinate their use there should be a real monopoly for all the work: Design and construction until ready for use.

Obi Hayot can cope with this task. Currently it is a powerful enterprise that is a single specialized scientific production and economic complex. Our company carries out scientific research, experimental construction work, designing, construction, and running rural water supply sites. It has 25 construction and operating subdivisions and solid capacities for manufacturing assembled reinforced concrete and metal structures and products.

Implementing the republican government's resolutions, our company has worked out a program for supplying rural areas with water and sewage systems by the year 2010. It envisages supplying water of appropriate quality and in the necessary quantities to all branches of the agro-industrial complex and collecting and purifying sewage and sending it back, either into circulation or into the basin's balances.

Our subdivisions have put 10,107 km of water pipe systems into use by July this year and brought their total length up to 34,437 km. Average provision of rural population with drinking water from centralized sources has grown from 52 to 59.5 percent over the last four years. But if we speak specifically, then in Tashkent, Andizhan, Ferghana, and Namangan regions the figure is over 70 percent, and in the Karakalpakstan, Bukhara, and Navoi regions it is only about 31 percent. The reason is the shortage of potable sources.

We are continuing the search for cardinal solutions and trying to get out of the situation by gathering river waters while there is the least amount of minerals accumulated in them, and pumping them into underground pipes. [passage omitted]

Now we have the possibility of solving complex tasks more efficiently and in a more flexible manner. Particularly as regards introducing new technology. A contract is ready for creating a joint-venture with the famous firm Simens. It will deliver water purifying containers to Uzbekistan, and in the future will take part in organizing their production in the Republic. These economical compact installations will replace our cumbersome constructions that take up large areas. The production of pump engines and other installations is envisaged. An agreement of intentions has been signed with another German firm, INVA Consult, on the organization of an enterprise to introduce higher purification technology for preparing, supplying, and conserving drinking water. A project for a plant to bottle drinking water on the basis of French technology has been prepared jointly with ESCATO of the United Nations. All this will allow us not only to master the latest technology, but to export the products to other countries as well.

[Correspondent] How are questions of financing the construction of water pipes being solved at such a difficult time? As previously, from the state budget?

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[Nasyrov] Now the state is paying only for arterial systems. At present we are constructing 27. Enterprises pay themselves for their own systems. And if they have no money then district and regional authorities should help them. It is a pity that not everybody understand this. Many regional administrations refer to the presidential decree, insisting on construction. But for some reason they forget that it talks of the necessity of involving all sources of financing. It is well understood in the Ferghana and Namangan regions, and the situation is being improved in Dzhizak Region.

[Correspondent] And the last question. Is the problem of drinking water in the republic solvable? And if yes, then how soon?

[Nasyrov] I think if each of us realizes his involvement and interest, then the situation will be considerably improved in a few years. One should use not more than is required.

Government Reviews Status of Privatization

LD0912202594 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers sectors which deal with privatization and the development of enterprise, consumer goods, trade, and paid services was held at the Cabinet of Ministers under the chairmanship of Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulhasim Mutalov today. The heads of ministries, departments, local administrations and enterprises, and officials in the Cabinet of Ministers took part in the meeting.

Breaking up privatized trade and communal service enterprises into smaller units was discussed, with the experience of the Shaykhontokhur and Yakkasaray districts of Tashkent used as examples. It was noted that steps to implement the first phase of denationalization and privatization are being carried out at enterprises belonging to Uzbytsoyuz [Uzbek consumer union] and Uzbeksavdo [Uzbek trading].

However, an analysis of the activity of trade, public catering and service enterprises has shown that this work has not yet produced the desired results. The tasks that they were set have not been fully carried out. The joint-stock companies and collective enterprises created on the bases of the old trusts, foodstuff trading centers, consumer service establishments, and other state structures have been unable to assist in filling the consumer market with goods and services, developing competition, and forming market relationships.

Specific cases were cited as evidence of shortcomings in implementing the earlier plan of action for breaking up monopoly structures into smaller units in the sphere of trade and consumer service, particularly with regard to Shaykhontokhur and Yakkasaray districts.

The successes of the experiment were studied in detail at the meeting, and problems came to light which are impeding the work being done to ensure dynamic progress of the reforms.

Deputy prime ministers Mirabror Usmanov and Viktor Chzhen took part in the meeting.

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Armenia

Yugoslav Defense Minister, Military Delegation Visit

AU1112220394 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 11 Dec 94

[Report by Dusan Cukic in Yerevan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal Defense Minister Pavle Bulatovic is on a visit here in Yerevan, the capital city of Armenia. Generals Blagoje Kovacevic and Savo Pustinja are also in the Yugoslav delegation. Minister Bulatovic and his aides have held talks with Defense Minister Serzik Sarkisyan and Minister of Industry Ashot Safaryan, as well as directors of several large enterprises of this independent Transcaucasian republic.

They discussed both countries' efforts to continue and broaden industrial cooperation, for which, as stated in Yerevan today, all conditions exist, considering the complementary nature of production and the markets' interest.

Yugoslav Defense Minister Pavle Bulatovic and his host Armenian Defense Minister Serzik Sarkisyan also visited some units of the Armenian Army.

The Yugoslav delegation was met here with noticeable warmth that has been characteristic of relations between the two countries in the past. Among other things, the people in Armenia have not forgotten the help that Yugoslavia sent after the tragic earthquake that killed over 25,000 people in Yerevan and the surrounding area in December 1988. A crew of a Yugoslav airplane was killed at that time when the plane loaded with medicines and other aid crashed near Yerevan.

The Yugoslav and Armenian defense ministers today laid flowers at the site of the crash.

The Yugoslav delegation is continuing its visit tomorrow and will hold top level meetings.

Foreign Minister on Russian Role in Karabakh

NC0912211894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1039 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, December 9 (SNARK)—Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia Vahan Papazyan estimated the results of Budapest meeting of heads of states-participants of CSCE as "very affirmative" at the press conference, which took place in Geneva, December 8.

The leader of Interpolitical Department of Armenia, particularly informed that though the final detailed plan on stationing of international separating forces in Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict zone is not developed yet, it is already known about planned dispatch of more than 3 thousand military men with peace-making mission to this region. According to him, military contingents from Russia, Poland, Greece and maybe from other countries are planned to be stationed in the conflict zone.

Answering SNARK reporter question on role of Russia in the process of Karabakh conflict settlement, Papazyan named efforts of Moscow as "constructive and positive".

The Minister also said that the further internationalization of this conflict [remainder of item not received]

No Turkish Role Wanted in CSCE Force in Karabakh

NC1112145394 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0736 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("ARAVOT" newspaper-ARMENPRESS), 12/10/94—Armenian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vardan Oskanian held a briefing on December 8, concerning session of CSCE Minsk group held in Budapest on November 30-December 2.

Armenian deputy foreign minister said that the resulting document almost completely expresses the approach of Armenia to resolution of the Karabakh conflict. Oskanian noted once again that Armenia is against participation of Turkey in peaceful actions.

Official: CSCE Document 'Best Document Ever Signed'

NC0912123394 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1108 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Lragir" daily), 12/09/94—"I believe, this was the best document ever signed by CSCE", yesterday said RA [Republic of Armenia] Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vardan Oskanyan at a press conference dedicated to the CSCE meeting in Budapest.

Oskanian reported that the congress of CSCE member-countries Presidents and Prime Ministers was preceded by a session of the Minsk group on November 30 - December 2. For the first time ever, RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Foreign Minister Arkadi Gukasyan, Councilor of the Azeri President Vafa Goulouzade and RA Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan have met within the CSCE framework. No decision has been accepted as a result of negotiations, but two important agreements were reached.

The Armenian side was insisting on a cease-fire with CSCE observers, but the Azeri side refused this idea, telling that it will freeze the situation. Therefore, the sides agreed to station observers in the region, after the Grand Political Agreement is reached. For now, these will be called "CSCE representation" and will have no permanent site. Mobile groups will be operating, to control the cease-fire.

The second agreement concerns participation of sides in a seminar, to discuss legal and historical aspects of the Karabakh conflict.

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Speaking on the Resolution on Mountainous Kharabakh, accepted in Budapest, Oskanian said that it was being developed for long period of time but was finally formed only after the meeting of Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev with the US State Secretary Warren Christopher. According to Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister, this document expresses external policy of Armenia and our approach to resolution of the conflict.

Resolution consists of five topics, main of which is that Presidents of member-countries give the power to CSCE Chairman to assign a co-chairman of the Minsk group, as soon as possible. Both Chairmen will have equal power and rights. The document does not mention who will be the co-chairman, but clearly, it will be a Russian representative. This is probably an attempt of uniting CSCE and Russian peace programs.

Second topic of the resolution directly follows from the first and stresses that there will be only one political document. Third topic empowers co-chairmen to start negotiations for Grand Political Agreement. "This is a new thing, since CSCE stopped working in this direction still a year ago," Oskanyan said. Fourth topic of the CSCE agreement concerns peace-making forces, all Presidents of member-countries agreed to provide an input for their formation. It is not clear yet who will constitute these forces and a number of related problems but it is mentioned that a special UN resolution will be accepted concerning stationing disengagement forces in the region. According to Oskanian, this is a very important topic, since it indirectly defines Mountainous Karabakh as a side of the conflict.

Deputy Arshak Sadoyan Attacked in Moscow

NC0912134794 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1108 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow ("Aragil" AIP), 12/09/94—Our sources in Moscow reported that a deputy of RA [Republic of Armenia] parliament Arshak Sadoyan, who visited the Russian capital to participate in the congress of International Armenian Assembly, was beaten by unknown individuals.

Mr. Sadoyan was visiting his friend's house on December 7, when some people have hit him on the head from the back and beaten.

Note that this was the second attack at Mr. Sadoyan during the recent weeks, after the incident in Gyumri.

New World Association Head Interviewed

MM0912122194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 2

[Interview with Serzh Dzhilavyan, president of the World Armenian Assembly, by Georgiy Sharonov; place and date not given: "The Fate of the People Comes Before Personal Ambition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, the World Armenian Forum, which gathered together representatives of Armenian associations from many countries, has taken place in Moscow. At the forum, the World Armenian Assembly (WAA) was founded. Major entrepreneur Serzh Dzhilavyan was elected its president. RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA's correspondent asked him to answer a few questions.

[Sharonov] Serzh Surikovich, what prompted the need to set up the WAA?

[Dzhilavyan] By dint of well-publicized, tragic circumstances, a large proportion of Armenians were scattered throughout the world. But they all remember where they came from. After the collapse of the Union, Armenia found itself in a uniquely difficult position—subject to blockade, without fuel, and on starvation rations. And let's not forget the terrible consequences of the earthquake and the Karabakh conflict. The situation is menacing, and without help it will not improve. But it is not the IMF that we should be relying on, but on our own resources. And we have many. Separately we will be able to ease the lot of maybe our nearest relatives and friends. But it is the motherland which has to be saved, its people, culture, and economy.

[Sharonov] But why did the forum convene here, and not in France, for instance, or in the United States?

[Dzhilavyan] The initiative derived from the International Armenian Assembly. It is based in Moscow, and for the last 18 months it has been coordinating the activity of Armenian communities in the former USSR republics. Moreover, I believe that the key state on which Armenia can rely is Russia, and only Russia. Such an asset as our historical links and traditions of friendship should not be squandered.

[Sharonov] A whole range of business projects was discussed at the forum. What is the thrust of these?

[Dzhilavyan] First and foremost the boosting of the Armenian economy. But insofar as its industrial and scientific potential was created as part of a profoundly integrated complex, proposals which take due account of this feature and encourage mutually advantageous cooperation will not be overlooked. There are some very promising ideas on developing small and medium businesses in regions densely populated by Armenians.

[Sharonov] These are sound plans. Do they have specific financial "outlines"?

[Dzhilavyan] Yes, it is a matter at this stage of a sum in the order of $50 million. Right now, the most important thing is to carry out an economic analysis of the projects without delay, and to put the best of them into practice immediately.

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Conference on Problems of Citizenship Opens in Yerevan

NC1112120994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1145 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, December 10 (SNARK)—A scientific-practical conference, dedicated to the problems of citizenship, has opened in conference room of Armenian Supreme Council today in Yerevan. The conference was organized by UN Supreme Commissariat on Refugees, European Community and Committee on legal problems of Armenian Supreme Council.

The specialists, appeared on the forum, had mentioned advantages and shortcomings of institution of double citizenship, the most acute problem, discussed by Armenian parliamentaries, on the threshold of the Supreme Council's law on citizenship adoption.

Reconstruction To Continue at Nuclear Power Plant

NC0912131994 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1108 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Lragir" daily), 12/09/94—Reconstruction operations continue at the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant at a fast rate.

Various news agencies recently reported that Russia has provided Armenia with additional 20bln. rubles, and republican epidemiological services established permanent control over the territory of the nuclear plant. Radiology groups have been created in Armavir, Echmiadzin, and Medzamor districts, to control the level of radiation.

RA [Republic of Armenia] Ministry of Health also actively prepares to reopening of the nuclear plant. An anti-radiation medicine is being imported from Ukraine.

Based on the fast rate of operations "Lragir" supposes that Armenian Nuclear Power Plant may restart its operation not in November, as it was officially reported, but even earlier, in April.

Azerbaijan

Continuation of Iranian Parliament Speaker's Visit

Meets With President Aliyev

NC0912174294 Baku TURAN in English 1536 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, December 9 (TURAN)—Today at 15:00 the meeting between Head of Iranian Parliament 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri with President Heydar Aliyev took place.

According to Geydar Aliyev, the most important problem of Azerbaijan today is a liberation of the occupied territories. President Geydar Aliyev said the occupied territories was bordering with Iran and the Nagorno-Karabakh was also very close to Iran.

Nateq-Nuri noted the importance of developing interparliamentary relations between both countries. According to him, the specialists, entering the Iranian delegation have discussions with Azerbaijan on the prospects of co-operation in economy. Main trends of Iranian-Azeri cooperation is a cooperation in the Caspian sea and elimination of the energetic and transport blockade of Nakhichevan.

According to Nateq-Nuri opportunities of joint Iranian-Azeri cooperation in the Caspian sea, joint geological and exploration works, construction of motor and cement plant in Azerbaijan, of railway Astara (Azerbaijan)-Astara (Iran), of gas pipeline from Iran to Nakhichevan, of oil refinery in Nakhichevan and other issues are discussed now.

Early today Nateq-Nuri visited Azeri Academy of Sciences and met with the heads of the Academy. But he could not managed to meet with the employees of the Academy, as the women in the hall were with uncovered heads and the Iranian speaker refused to enter [remainder of item not received]

Iran Backs Return of Land

LD0912174594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] I begin this hour's news bulletin with a report on the continuation of the visit by Mr. Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, to the Republic of Azerbaijan. Our correspondent reports from Baku.

[Correspondent] This afternoon Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri met and conferred with Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan. In the meeting, the president of Azerbaijan mentioned that Iran was one of the first countries that recognized Azerbaijan's independence. He said: The Aras [Araks] river separates us, but our common historic, national, and religious values link our close emotions together and invite us to have brotherly cooperation.

In the continuation of his remarks, the president of Azerbaijan described the Karabakh crisis as one his country's problems and said: We hope that Iran helps us find solutions to economic problems and maintain the country's territorial integrity and independence. That is why we wish to expand our relations in all fields, and endeavour to further strengthen and increase such ties.

Then Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri said: The discussions held with officials of the Republic of Azerbaijan were satisfactory. He said: Relations between the two parliaments can help the two countries' officials, and the strengthening of the parliamentary friendship group will help boost and expand the two countries' relations. Mr.

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Nateq-Nuri said: We are well aware of your problems in Karabakh and will follow up the matter.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles mentioned that the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns aggression, and he added: We believe that the country's independence should be maintained and occupied territories should be returned to the Azeri nation so that peace and security return to the region.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Parliament

LD0912174194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Consultative Majles speaker, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, visited the Azeri Parliament today, and in a statement thanked the Azeri president, parliamentary speaker, and people for their hospitality, and offered his congratulations on the occasion of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He said: The Republic of Azerbaijan is moving through a transition period from dependence toward independence. Going through this stage is one of the most sensitive phases in the life of any government and community. Unfortunately, in this sensitive period, your country is beset by an unwanted war and a devastating aggression. Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: The end of war and bloodshed and the establishment of a cease-fire in the past few months are cause for rejoicing, and we hope that the recent talks bring an honorable and just peace for the Republic of Azerbaijan. We hope that soon we will witness the liberation and evacuation of the occupied Azeri lands and the return home of the oppressed refugees.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri added: According to the holy teachings of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the expansion of ties with neighbors and the establishment of good-neighborly relation to be among its foreign policy objectives. Relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan, meanwhile, enjoys priority. Continuing, he said: We seek an independent, developed, and stable Azerbaijan, and the many years of efforts by our country, especially mediation efforts to end the Azeri-Armenian conflict, prove our claim. Our country is still ready to make any effort and to offer any cooperation to restore the rights of the Muslim people of Azerbaijan.

Views Broadening of Relations

NC10D091394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The speaker of the Islamic Majles, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is currently visiting Azerbaijan at the head of a high-level delegation, participated in a press conference with Chairman of the Azerbaijan National Assembly Rasul Guliyev last night. Please pay attention to the report by our special correspondent:

[Begin correspondent recording] At the beginning of this conference, Nateq-Nuri referred to the cordial economic relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan but described them as inadequate. He said: The volume of trade exchanges between the two countries is more than $400 million but should be more.

He added: During this visit, an agreement was reached on the construction of the oil refinery, piping of gas to Nakhichevan, and the oil consortium going into effect between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan.

The speaker of the Islamic Majles said Tehran-Baku relations were excellent and once again rejected all kinds of Iranian support for Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh war. He said that Tehran-Yerevan relations were on the level of current diplomatic relations in the Islamic world [as heard]. He stressed: We denounce the occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia.

Chairman of the Azerbaijan National Assembly Rasul Guliyev answered the question by one of the correspondents on some of the Azerbaijani publications that seek to tarnish Tehran-Baku relations. He said: Nothing can mar the relations between the two countries.

He referred to the presence of the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Azerbaijan as a step toward the further broadening of relations between the two countries. He said: I hope that the parliamentary cooperation between the two countries will assist in expanding mutual relations.

It may be added that before this press conference three memoranda of understanding were signed between the speakers of the parliaments of the two countries. [end recording]

Our correspondent reports that last night a joint communique was issued by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku. In a section of this communique, the two sides stressed the importance of cooperation between their respective parliaments, the need for the broadening of this cooperation, and the strengthening of the activities of the parliamentary friendship groups.

The need for multilateral cooperation between the two countries and the expansion of collaboration in the field of oil were among the other issues stressed in the communique. In conclusion, the communique states that the two sides express pleasure at the continued cease-fire in the war zones of Azerbaijan and Armenia and condemn the military aggression against Azerbaijan and the occupation of a part of its territory. They express the hope that the evacuation of the occupied territory of Azerbaijan and the return of the refugees to their homeland will restore peace and tranquility to the region.

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Memoranda of Understanding Signed

LD1012181494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Three memoranda of understanding in the fields of economic, cultural, and parliamentary cooperation were signed at the end of Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri's official visit to Baku. On the basis of these memoranda of understanding, parliamentary friendship groups will be formed by the two countries. The establishment of two cement factories in the Republic of Azerbaijan and examination of ways in which that Republic's (? Karabakh) cement factory can be rebuilt by the [Iranian] Azarab company were among the issues on which agreement was reached during the visit. The volume of economic exchanges between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan amounted to 480 million dollars last year.

Agreement With IRIB Television Signed

LD1112215794 Tehran IRNA in English 2116 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baku, Dec. 11, IRNA—A cooperation agreement was signed here on Saturday [10 December] between the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB) and Azeri radio and television organization in the aftermath of IRIB Managing Director 'Ali Larijani's visit to the republic.

Talking to IRNA here Saturday culture and Islamic guidance minister advisor and managing director of 'SORUSH' magazine She'rdoost said that based on the agreement the two sides have announced their readiness to produce a serial on the life of the well-known Iranian poet the late Nezami Ganjavi.

Exchange of various TV programs, production of joint programmes and Iran's offering training courses for Azeri TV technicians were among other provisions of the agreement signed by the two sides, She'rdoost added.

He said that in another meeting with Azeri culture minister the two sides had agreed on production of film on the Iranian contemporary poet Mohammad Hossein Shahriar and recording Azerbaijan's classic works, including Leyli-Majnoon and Haft-Peykar of Ganjavi, for broadcast on Azeri television.

Larijani and his accompanying delegation, who arrived here on Wednesday, left here for the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan on Wednesday along with Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri. [passage omitted]

Economic Aspects of Visit Examined

NC0912183194 Baku TURAN in English 1536 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, December 9 (TURAN)—The speaker of Iran's Parliament, Nateq-Nuri, arrived in Baku on December 8 and visited the exhibition of achievements of Islam Republic of Iran, which has been opened here short time ago.

"There are lots of issues concerning oil—construction of oil-processing plant in Nakhichevan and its supply with oil, moreover the issues on cooperation on Caspian sea in the field of oil and gas extraction, possibility of creation of Iranian-Azerbaijani joint venture, determination of perspective oil-fields will be discussed during visit of the speaker of Iran's Parliament, Nateq-Nuri, to Baku', the President of SOCAR [State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic], Natik Aliyev, told TURAN's correspondent.

Natik Aliyev mentioned that SOCAR's specialists will conduct geological and research works in Iran's section of the Caspian sea. Natik Aliyev mentioned that the agreement on Azeri oil sale to Iran is expected to be concluded during Nateq-Nuri's visit to Azerbaijan.

On the question is there anything in common between Nateq-Nuri's visit to Kiev and Iran, the Chief of International Department in Supreme Soviet, Namik Akhundov, said that there is nothing common between these visits since they have been planned long ago. Akhundov also said that agreement concerning cooperation between Iran's and Azerbaijan's Parliaments will be signed during the visit of the speaker of Iran's Parliament.

Namik Akhundov said that Iran's delegation includes the ministers and chiefs of several managements, in particular, Iran's oil minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i. Appropriate Azerbaijan's ministries and structures are instructed to work out perspective issues of bilateral agreement, Akhundov said.

At the end of Nateq-Nuri's visit, joint communique reflecting political issues, including position of the parties to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, will be adopted as well.

During his meeting with Rasul Guliyev, Nateq-Nuri condemned Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and backed up territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Akhundov said.

Special Troop Units To Be Sent to Chechnya

MK0912142094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Nagorno-Karabakh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Karabakh sources report from Stepanakert, citing data received from intelligence agencies of the Nagorno-Karabakh defense staff, that 6 December a special troop battalion was taken from its position on the Agdam segment of the Karabakh-Azerbaijani front and sent to Baku. According to available information, this battalion is planned to be sent to Chechnya to support General Dudayev's troops. This

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was allegedly done at the insistence of Azerbaijani spiritual leaders, who echoed Dudayev's call for launching a sacred war against Russia. There have been reports that preparations are under way to move another two special units deployed on the standoff line in Nagorno-Karabakh to Chechnya. Therefore, the Azerbaijani Army does not expect an offensive by Armenian forces and for this reason the Azerbaijani political leadership can provide support to Dudayev, bowing to demands of the country's spiritual leaders.

Georgia Backed in Opposing Abkhazian Independence

LD0912210994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry has disseminated a statement concerning a decision taken by the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet on 26 November to adopt a new constitution, declare independence of Abkhazia, and introduce presidential governing in Abkhazia. The statement says, in particular, that Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze has addressed the UN Security Council, the CSCE, the leaders of the CIS countries and the government of the Russian Federation in the first instance, censuring the decision taken by the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet which contradicts all standards of the international law and is directed against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia.

The statement emphasizes that the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry censures the unilateral decision of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet and regards this step as a flagrant violation of Georgia's sovereignty. The statement also says that the action is in contrast to the spirit of the quadripartite peace negotiations and creates new serious threats in the region.

The document further says: The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry considers that the self-proclaimed Republic of Abkhazia cannot be recognized by the world community as an independent state and and the subject of the international law. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry confirms its recognition of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and believes that there still are reserves to be used by the parties to reach mutually acceptable agreement.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Talks With U.S. Oil Company President

LD0912214194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze met with Jim Kozlovsky, president of the American company Macoil, on 9 December, Kontakt news agency reports referring to the press service of the Georgian Head of State. The company, which is well known within the oil producing system of the world, has had a joint venture with the Saknavtobi [Georgian oil] department for a few years now. The principal aim of the joint venture is to apply the method of horizontal drilling in eastern Georgia to increase the output of the existing boreholes to their maximum and eventually the quantity of the oil extracted in Georgia. Referring to the data available to him, Jim Kozlovsky, as an expert, expressed confidence that large deposits of natural gas will be revealed in this region in the very near future. This will be confirmed on the completion of drilling operations.

Eduard Shevardnadze told the visitor that the creation of a firm legislative basis beneficial for foreign investments will soon be completed. The Georgian Parliament will pass the law on investments before the end of the year. This will not only stabilize the situation in the country but also promote large-scale foreign investments.

Party Chairman Warned of 'Destructive Forces'

AU0912201294 Tbilisi KAVKASIONI in Georgian 29 Nov 94 p 3

["Open Letter to Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze, Chairman of the Republic of Georgia Parliament-Head of State" from Giorgi Chanturia, recently murdered chairman of the National-Democratic Party, dated 20 November; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Batono [Georgian polite form of address] Head of State!

You know better than I in what situation Georgia, the Georgian people, and the country's entire population are today and what heights tension has reached. I will not spell out everything lest we be accused of populism and a lack of goodwill, particularly as everyone knows everything and it is not so necessary today to list our misfortunes as to search for and find a way of emerging from this situation and truly begin the process of nation-building.

My comrades-in-arms and I deeply believe that a significant part of our misfortunes is conditioned by subjective reasons although we do not want to ignore objective factors as well. However, the very first of these subjective factors is our incapable, disorganized, and incompetent government (with rare exceptions).

We need, first and foremost, to change the structure of the government and, what is most important, the rules for staffing it. We should follow the example not of the Central Asian republics and Russia where they have "forgotten" to remove the busts of Lenin but of those Central European countries that are on the road of progress, not to mention highly-developed western countries.

The government should be a political and not an economic body, if we want to reject communist practice,

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when the Central Committee and Politburo had only a political function and the government's activities were confined to economic supervision. Naturally, we cannot build a new life and especially a new state by using antiquated structures or methods.

The communist practice of staffing our government is one of our misfortunes. Another is that certain of our ministers appear to be protecting not our own interests but those of other countries. This would not be tolerated in any normal or abnormal country.... We have been able to tolerate this, but for how long?

Believe me, the people can no longer endure so much and it is astonishing what they have endured until now. The ability to endure is, to a significant degree, conditioned by hope and, today, when we are conceding our independence stage by stage, it becomes difficult for people to understand why it is necessary to go hungry, to suffer, to sit in the cold and darkness, to bear the wave of violence of official bandit formations, and so forth. We should also not forget that the current situation is creating a marvelous basis for the activities of a "fifth column"—the Communist Party, the Social-Democratic Party, that part of the "Zviadists" [supporters of deceased ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia] who are agents, and other destructive forces—ensconced in Georgia.

Whenever it seems that a positive solution can be found to a problem, a certain destructive force unexpectedly becomes more active and we continue to use forces that are not protecting the state's interests but those of foreign countries and, in some cases, even criminals in order to counter it, which makes the latter ever stronger and more active. Such a "balance" is in every way ruinous for our country and has a destructive effect not only on the state but also the spirit of all our citizens.

Our party has repeatedly mentioned the activities of those high-ranking officials whose interests run counter to the interests of Georgia. We do not always say everything as this can harm the country, but when we see how certain ministers are systematically working against Georgia and its vital interests, one has to say what has to be said and the person should be sent on his way (if we want to be a state).

I have already publicly stated what I think about the head of the Security Service [Igor Giorgadze]. I have not said everything but, if I become convinced that he is again continuing his "activities," I will be forced to do so.

I now want to say a few words about Batoni Vardiko Nadibaidze [defense minister], the head of a most important department. It can be said without exaggeration that this person is doing everything to prevent Georgia from having an army. There is nothing more important for a country whose territorial integrity has been violated than the creation of an army. If nothing else, the Abkhazian separatists and our other enemies as well will take account of a country that has an army. Meaning will be given to the peace negotiations and, in the event of the unilateral violation of the result of negotiations, as has frequently happened, there will be a mechanism for protecting Georgia's interests and restoring justice.

What are we doing to organize an army? I will try to formulate my thoughts point by point:

1. The head of state is being misled. Disinformation is being systematically spread about current processes in the Ministry of Defense. The sums that have been allocated to the ministry are principally being used not for the organizational development of the Army but for the furnishing of expensive offices and, most significantly, for Nadibaidze's incessant visits to Moscow;

2. The figure of 20,000 that is being quoted as the precise figure for the numerical composition of our Army formations is inflated. To all intents and purposes, there are, today, 4,500 men in the "Army" and the fear exists that we will lose these people.

3. The appointment of the "Russian" minister could possibly have been "justified" had we received weapons, equipment, and ammunition from Russia, but this has not been the case; neither Russia nor, naturally, Nadibaidze are interested in the creation of the Georgian Army and the problems of equipping it with weapons. In the entire six-months since Batoni Nadibaidze's appointment, in spite of promises, the Ministry of Defense has not received a single piece of combat gear and equipment or weaponry from the Russian Armed Forces.

4. Countries in Europe and the United States are trying to help our country, but the defense minister is rejecting this assistance and is trying in every way to "bind" the Ministry of Defense to Russia. We have received repeated official offers to train our cadres comprehensively and without cost in Germany, Turkey, and the United States, but these plans have fallen through following the direct efforts of the defense minister.

When Gia Qarqarishvili was still defense minister, two officers—Benidze and Javakhia—were sent to Germany to take a language course at a German educational center and then undergo further training in the Bundeswehr itself and at a military academy (free of charge!). They completed their course with flying colors and obtained the right to continue their studies, but were not sent due to Nadibaidze's categorical refusal. In this way, we lost two places at an extremely prestigious academy and such an offer will probably not be made again by the Germans.

A senior general from an American training center, accompanied by the U.S. ambassador, visited Batoni Nadibaidze and offered to train two to four officers. However, his offer was rejected by the minister. The Turkish Military Attache Babuch-Oghli [name as transliterated] received a similar rejection.

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Instead, Georgia and Russia have conducted joint training of military staff during which the Republic of Turkey was presented as the enemy (this information filtered through to the pages of the national press). We have violated the treaty on questions of mutual trust and have not even extended a formal invitation to UN observers.

By such actions, Georgia will be viewed as a Russian satellite, which will result in our isolation and confrontation with our closest neighbors who are truly well disposed toward us.

It should also be pointed out that we are being made to pay millions of rubles to send, on Nadibaidze's decision, our young men to Russian military schools where they are experiencing such conditions that some of them are planning to return home.

It is surprising that the chairman of the Parliament Commission for Defense [Nodar Natadze], who is from the opposition, is not saying anything about these questions that are of the utmost importance for the country (and that also directly concern him) and is spending his inexhaustible energy on other, often futile matters.

5. The National-Democratic Public Board, as you know, listened to and recommended to you Col. Barnabishvili whose military concept, in our view, will enable us to form a true Georgian army in the shortest period of time and without considerable material resources. You have familiarized yourself with this draft and passed the corresponding resolution, but those opposed to the creation of a Georgian army have delivered a negative conclusion, fearing that an army might indeed be formed.

This was expected in the same way that Col. Barnabishvili's concept is already well known to... the Main Staff of the Russian Armed Forces and the Main Intelligence Directorate, which attests to secret press information that has come from Moscow and is kept in the Ministry of Defense. The Russian bosses have forbidden the Georgian defense minister from adopting this concept as we have been forbidden by Russia from building our army and our state in general.

How long should this continue? When are we to put an end to treachery, chaos, the wave of violence of the bandits that have entered the cabinet, the destruction of the country and citizens' spirit, and, most importantly, the hopelessness and complete despair?

It is high time to take bold and decisive action otherwise it is possible and to be expected that processes will begin that will finally destroy and ruin our country.

Batono Eduard, if the Cabinet of Ministers is not replaced and all traitors, bribe takers, and irresponsible persons are not punished and if reforms are not conducted in all spheres of our life and the hope of building an independent and democratic state is not returned to Georgians, a political and social explosion will be inevitable and we will not only be unable to get back Abkhazia but will also lose all of Georgia.

You are able to take radical steps and no one will be able to accuse you of lacking courage or political perspicacity; therefore, it is precisely you, our head of state, who should today [previous word published in enlarged print] take those steps that are expected of you by the Georgian people. You should have hope that all healthy political forces and that healthy part of our society will stand by you and meaning will be given, as of old, to both our life and death.

[signed] Giorgi Chanturia

[dated] 20 November 1994.

Shevardnadze Edict on Enforcing Law in Armed Forces

LD0912201394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We present an edict issued by the Georgian head of State concerning measures to ensure fulfilment of the law and to enhance anti—crime activities within the Georgian Armed Forces, and to improve legal training among servicemen in 1995.

In order to ensure fulfilment of the law, enhance anti-crime activities within the Georgian Armed Forces, and improve legal training among servicemen, the Chief Military Procuracy of the Republic of Georgia, together with the Georgian Defense, Interior, and Justice Ministries, and the Georgian State Security Service, will formulate a draft plan of measures to be carried out in 1995 to ensure fulfilment of the law, enhance anti-crime activities within the Georgian Armed Forces, and improve legal training among servicemen, and submit it for approval by 15 January 1995.

The military advisers of the offices of the Georgian head of state and the commander in chief of the Georgian Armed Forces will be responsible for controlling the implemntation of the edict.

Train Delivers Grain To Armenia

LD0912224594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After a five-day break, the first train went over the bridge across the river Khrami in Georgia blown up on December 3.

The Armenian Transport and Communications Ministry told Interfax that the train delivered grain to the Republic.

According to Armenian sources, the frequent sabotage acts on communications between Armenia and the rest of the world are sponsored by Azerbaijan. However, Baku has repeatedly dismissed the allegations.

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Estonia

Council of Europe To Mediate Russian Border Talks

LD0912231194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mati Hint, a member of the Riigikogu, has said that diplomats of the Council of Europe are prepared to mediate in Estonian-Russian border talks. Martin Viirand reports.

[Begin recording] [Viirand] Professor Mati Hint, you are a member of the Riigikogu. Yesterday you arrived from Paris where a committee of non-member states of the Council of Europe held its working meeting. What were the issues at the meeting which are important to Estonia?

[Hint] A situation has emerged where very high-ranking diplomats in the Council of Europe are prepared to mediate in Estonian-Russian border talks, providing both sides are prepared to hold real talks—meaning they are ready for compromises. If the Estonian side maintains that the talks must without fail result in acceptance of the land border as specified in the Tartu peace treaty, or if Russia maintains that the border should remain where Russia unilaterally demarcated it, then there will be no talks. If both sides are prepared to compromise in advance, the talks will take place. I think this is one of the last opportunities for Estonia to improve the border and also to improve the situation for the Setu. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Military Gifts Received From Norway, Denmark

LD1012223794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 10 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tallinn, 10 Dec—Norway has presented the Estonian border troops with a "Storm" class escort vessel. The handing over ceremony will take place in Tallinn on 16 December.

The Estonian defense forces will also receive a gift from Denmark in December of a small vessel, 27 light trucks, 42 jeeps, 5,000 military uniforms, 885 field radio stations, and several computers.

At the same time Estonia has been less fortunate with a contract it signed with the Israeli arms firm TAAS for the supply of small arms, which has also delivered light artillery pieces. Only a few days ago it was agreed that the unwanted artillery pieces will be replaced by communications equipment the Estonian Army is in need of.

Russia's Oil Export Ban May Raise 'Price of Heat'

WS1212103094 Tallinn BNS in English 1634 GMT 09 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Dec 09, BNS—A Russian Government decree prohibiting export of oil products until April 1 may cause a rise in the price of heat in Estonia, Rudolf Puks, head of the national energy company Eesti Energia's fuel department, told BNS.

Fuel oil consignments loaded in Russia before Dec. 2—the date when the decree was issued—are still arriving in Estonia and it will become clear next week how total the ban is, he said.

If fuel oil deliveries from Russia stop completely, Eesti Energia will be forced to use gas for heating, which is more expensive and raises the price of heat.

Gas can be used for heat production in all boilerhouses operated by Eesti Energia, so stoppage of fuel oil deliveries shouldn't leave people at the mercy of the cold in winter, Puks assured. "Should Russia do something about gas deliveries as well, the situation will become much more difficult," he noted.

The fuel oil ban isn't expected to affect energy production as Estonian power stations use domestic shale oil for preheating their furnaces, Puks added.

Latvia

Agricultural Trade Agreement Signed With Switzerland

LD0912135594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement between Latvia and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural produce was signed at the Foreign Ministry today. Signing the agreement, Olgerts Pavlovskis, state minister for foreign trade and European Union affairs, and Gaudenz Ruf, Swiss ambassador to Latvia, noted that the new agreement would give real benefit to the Latvian economy.

Import duties on many Latvian products—for example, poultry, pork, beef, mushrooms, berries, vegetables, and even cheese—are being completely abandoned or considerably reduced. The Latvian customs for their part will give permission for import of only such Swiss products that Latvia does not produce itself—concentrates of coffee and tea.

Nordic Countries Send Supplies to Baltic Peace Battalion

MM0912135994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Gromak: "Baltic Battalion Kitted Out by Entire 'Nordic World'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Adazhi training center, where the Baltic peacekeeping battalion is being organized, is being equipped with modern simulators, sports equipment, television sets, and apparatus worth $600,000.

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Colonel Petris Ziyemelis [surname as transliterated], leader of the Latvian Defense Ministry's training unit, said that Sweden's representative on the British and Nordic countries' working group for the formation of the Baltic battalion has handed over the first batch of training equipment to the Adazhi center.

Baltic States Defense Forces Commanders Meet

WS0912150194 Riga LABRIT in Latvian 1 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Ieva Stale: "No Diversities of Opinion Among the Commanders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "There have not been any differences of opinion regarding plans for future cooperation among Baltic defense forces," said Juris Dalbins, commander of the Latvian National Defense Forces, upon his return from a meeting of the commanders of Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian defense forces, held in Tallinn.

Such meetings, along with regular mutual consultations, have become a tradition at the level of the national forces staffs of the three states. This time, in Tallinn, the commanders primarily discussed the exchange of information among the Baltic defense forces, as well as the formation of the Baltic Battalion, its structure and training. According to Dalbins, despite previous fears, the Baltic Battalion training center in Adazi can be regarded as practically ready for action. The Adazi center, designated as a training center for all Latvian military formations, has recently received about 650,000 lats. Also technical aid from abroad is expected. Yesterday, a shipment containing such aid arrived from Sweden.

At the meeting in Tallinn, a decision was made by the commanders that each country will send to the Baltic battalion one of each of the following: an infantry division, a staff division, a supporting forces division, and a military police division. Currently, documents on how each country is going to prepare these military units are being prepared.

During the meeting, the commanders of the Baltic armed forces also signed a recommendation to create a united control system over the Baltic states air space, and discussed possibilities for the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian Navy to participate in the annual battleship maneuvers organized under the "Partnership for Peace" program in the Baltic Sea next year. It was stated, that Latvian and Lithuanian ships are ready for this task, but a decision regarding their participation in "Baltop-95" will be adopted by the Navy commanders themselves, at their meeting.

The meetings of the Baltic states navy commanders are scheduled for next year, in the following order: March—in Lithuania, July—in Estonia, and November—in Latvia.

However, already on 25 January in Riga, staff members of the armed forces of the three states will meet in Riga, to discuss problems connected with crises management [as published] and cooperation in this field.

No Border Demarcation Disputes With Belarus Exist

WS1212101094 Riga LETA in English 1256 GMT 09 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga. December 8 LETA—SiH [expansion unknown] control posts for crossing the Latvian-Belarusian frontier without visas for residents of the frontier districts will be opened, said Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, first deputy speaker for the Belarusian parliament at a press conference held in Riga on Wednesday [7 December]. Mr. Kuznetsov heads the Belarusian parliamentary delegation which had arrived on an official visit to Riga. Mr. Kuznetsov pointed out that the treaty signed by the leaders of the two states in February, 1994 will be ratified by the Belarusian parliament in the near future. He added that the treaty actually works at present. Thus, demarcation is being carried out in accordance with the 1933 [as received] agreement. Neither Belarus nor Latvia has any claim concerning the border.

The Belarusian delegation met with representatives from the Belarusian community in Latvia. At present 3.5 thousand Latvians live in Belarus, while 104 thousand Belarusians reside in Latvia.

Parliamentarian Allegedly Unaware of KGB Ties

WS1212104294 Tallinn BNS in English 1634 GMT 09 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Dec 09, BNS—Latvian MP Andrejs Silins was enlisted as a KGB agent dubbed Kalns without he himself knowing it, recruiter Aleksei Dmitriev told the Riga Region Court Friday [9 December]. Silins also did not sign any papers confirming his readiness to collaborate, Dmitriev added.

Consequently, Silins' defense attorney proposed the prosecutor to decline maintenance of the indictment but the proposal was rejected.

Silins is said to have been recruited Sept. 21, 1972, when he worked at a physics institute. His pseudonym was Kalns and he was engaged in scientific espionage abroad, according to the indictment.

As reported, Silins is the fourth member of the incumbent parliament whose case has been considered in the first-level court instance.

The court acquitted Roberts Milbergs and Aivars Kreituss. The acquittals have already been appealed by the prosecution. In the case of Edvins Inkens, the prosecution refused to maintain the charges as new evidence appeared.

The fifth suspected KGB agent, Viktors Andrejevs, confessed to limited collaboration and withdrew from all posts soon after his deputy's mandate was suspended in spring.

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The Latvian election law bars former KGB's from running for the parliament and all deputy candidates have to sign a non-collaboration statement. If any of the suspects is found guilty, his mandate will be annuled.

Interview With Latvian Foreign Minister Birkavs

BR0912131294 Brussels LE SOIR in French 6 Dec 94 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs by Pol Mathil; place and date not given: "Valdis Birkavs—On His Country, 'Between Russia And Europe'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mathil] After 50 years Latvia is today a free and sovereign country, without Russian troops on its territory. Have your relations with Russia, so difficult in the past, improved?

[Birkavs] Our relations are on the right path: They are developing in the right direction, but too slowly. The situation is still complex. The departure of the last Russian soldiers on 31 August this year was an indisputable success. But some problems remain, notably concerning 4,000 Russian officers whose demobilization in Latvia is in a sense illegal. Whereas they should have left Latvia with the rest of the army, they have stayed with us. Four thousand military officers is a lot, especially since that in order to see the Russian soldiers leave, we had already accepted 22,000 retired Russian officers who preferred to stay in Latvia.

[Mathil] Are you concerned by the Russian geopolitical concept of the "near abroad?"

[Birkavs] I do not understand very well what that means in our period of global communication. If this concept implies that Russia has a right of inspection over us, then of course it is unacceptable. Moreover it cuts both ways. Carl Bild, when he was Swedish prime minister, replied that Latvia was a "very near abroad" for his country.

[Mathil] But Russia is recognized, especially in the West, as a great power.

[Birkavs] We sometimes have the impression that while not belonging to western structures, Russia has a greater voice within these structures than the Western countries which are members of them.

[Mathil] Do you still have problems over borders with Russia? Do you still claim the [?Abrene] region, seized by the USSR after the end of the war?

[Birkavs] From time to time we recall this episode, but we have never officially demanded the return of this region. We do not want to create new problems with borders. However, we are trying to resolve the question of the compensation for the abandoned property of our citizens in [Abrene].

[Mathil] How did you react to the recent "visit" by Yeltsin and Kozyrev very close to you, at a contested point on the Russian-Estonian frontier. The Estonians described the inspection as an "affront" and "provocation."

[Birkavs] Perhaps these terms are not very diplomatic, but if Yeltsin really wanted to improve his relations with Estonia, he did not choose the best way of doing so. We wondered why Yeltsin and Kozyrev inspected this particular stretch of border, when the Russian state has badly defined borders virtually everywhere else. The choice of a contested border, especially a Baltic one, for an inspection at such a level expresses an interest which is no doubt, let us say, special.

[Mathil] In contrast you are particularly sensitive as regards Kaliningrad, a region which passes for being the most militarized in the world. Does it worry you?

[Birkavs] It is part of Russia. And it is its problem. But of course Europe would be pleased if it could see a start of demilitarization there.

[Mathil] Lech Walesa, the Polish president, nevertheless raised the problem of the build-up of soldiers and military equipment during a visit to Riga.

[Birkavs] Moscow did not like that.

[Mathil] As a former prime minister, and current foreign minister, you are a particularly authoritative observer of Russian political developments.

[Birkavs] Seen from Riga, the situation in Russia is developing better than we thought. Or than we feared. We hope that Yeltsin shares our desire to find solutions and not create problems.

[Mathil] If that is so, why are you seeking closer links with NATO?

[Birkavs] We have always shown our desire to become a full member of the European Union (EU) and NATO. We have a choice between finding ourselves in the impact zone either of Russia, or the West. And we have made our choice. But at the same time we have decided to not make a membership application now, but to do everything possible so that when the time comes it will be as well prepared as possible.

[Mathil] And what would you say if, by a selective process, some central European countries were integrated within NATO before you?

[Birkavs] If a country, no matter which, joins NATO, the entire political landscape will change: New borders will appear in Europe.

[Mathil] Would you not be pleased to see a new border in Europe, following on from the one separating Finland, a future EU member, and Russia?

[Birkavs] It is a good thing that the EU has a long border with Russia.

[Mathil] And if NATO's borders one day were to follow Poland's eastern frontier?

[Birkavs] From my point of view, on that day it will be necessary for NATO to have a very precise agenda of

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new memberships, of enlargement to other candidate countries, notably the Baltic countries.

[Mathil] Why?

[Birkavs] Because on that day Russia will announce its determination to extend its influence. That will not be a pleasant perspective for the Baltic states.

Parliament Approves 1995 Budget

WS0912143694 Tallinn BNS in English 1004 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Dec 09, BNS—The Latvian Saeima (parliament) passed the 1995 budget plan Thursday [8 December] after its first reading by 61 votes for, eight against and nine abstentions.

During the debate, deputies mainly pointed to the necessity to allot larger funding for employees of state-run educational, medical and cultural establishments.

Spokespeople for the ruling Latvia's Way party said that changes in the payment of teachers will be connected with a general reform of payment in state budget institutions.

Some speakers suggested that the government should focus its efforts on trying to increase budget incomes rather than on redivison of the existent resources.

Others noted that the budget income next year depends on the final edition of a new taxation package which is still under parliament consideration.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Holds News Conference on Budapest Summit

LD0912214294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius 9 Dec (TASS)—"I believe that, contrary to what journalists claim, the summit of participating countries in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Budapest has not been the place of a conflict between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President of the United States Bill Clinton, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas told on Friday a news conference devoted to the results of the Budapest summit.

Brazauskas believes that the opinions of leaders of states on the problems discussed should not necessarily be identical. It is a normal thing if they differ. And this does not mean that there is a conflict.

Regarding the situation in Bosnia, Brazauskas noted that the participants in the Budapest meeting were unable to adopt a resolution on this matter since "some eagerly protected Serbs, others Muslims, while noone even considered where and with what funds the conflicting sides bought such huge amounts of contemporary arms".

Brazauskas believes the authoritative organisations, including CSCE, should have busied themselves with establishing these things in order to enhance their prestige.

Brazauskas said that in Budapest he touched upon the problem of Russian military transit via the Lithuanian territory. CSCE experts gave their conclusion regarding the rules of the transportation of particularly hazardous cargoes and military cargoes, endorsed by the Lithuanian Government. Brazauskas believes it is expedient to invite to Lithuania observers from CSCE who could monitor this transit.

Saudi Arabian Delegation Visits, Discusses Oil Exports

WS1212100794 Vilnius ELTA in English 1830 GMT 09 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, December 9, ELTA—After the meetings with Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and President Algirdas Brazauskas Saudi Arabian delegation headed by the Saudi Arabian Queen's brother Sheikh Majid I Al-Ibrahim left for Klaipeda on Friday [9 December].

Lithuanian Economic Minister Aleksandras Vasiliauskas informed that the unofficial visit of influential Saudi Arabian officials and businessmen to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was organized by the investment fund "Baltic Fund", looking for potential large-scale investments in the market of the Baltic states.

"We consider Saudi Arabia as an alternative supplier of oil, as the oil extraction in Russia had decreased by 2.5 times and it is getting more problematic to import the necessary amount of oil not only because of political motives", economic minister said. "Moreover, it is a country possessing large amounts of free capital, and we must use the posibilities to attract it" Vasiliauskas added.

During the meetings with Lithuanian top officials members of Saudi Arabian delegation mostly discussed issues concerning export of oil and construction of the oil terminal in Lithuania, reconstruction of the Klaipeda oil enterprise and the Mazeikiai "Nafta".

Sheikh Majid I Al-Ibrahim enquired about the existance of free economic zones in Lithuania and if they were provided by certain laws.

According to Lithuanian economic minister, nearly all potential investors would ask such question.

Minister said that the Law on Free Economic Zones was already prepared and was to be passed by Seimas [parliament] in the beginning of the next year. dd

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